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LEON SANTHAKUMAR/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Students will be able to network with employers and alumni through career academies which new director Anne Garner will help implement.

Restructured Career Center appoints director

By **ROLLIN HU**
Staff Writer

The Career Center has gone through a thorough restructuring of both staff and services in the past year. The center has been shifting its model to focus more on career academies than career counseling.

Former director Trudy Van Zee left the position in October and Anne Garner has been appointed the new executive director of the Career Center, effective May 2016. She has had experience in

forming and implementing career academies at universities.

This time of transition has limited the services of the Career Center, which has received negative feedback from students, especially current seniors who are looking for jobs.

Dean of Academic and Student Services Andy Wilson has been leading the transitions at the Career Center.

"Our new model really focuses around career academies and core employers. So the career academies are commu-

nities of faculty, alumni, employers and upper division students coming together around particular career interests and... offering career preparation for students in ways that are centered around interests," Wilson said. "So for example, health sciences, arts and media, consulting, finance, innovation technology and design and non-profits are the career academies that we are piloting right now for the fall."

Wilson then elaborated specifically on what students will go through

with these career academies.

"You would, as a new student, participate in what is considered a foundations academy and an exploration academy, where you go and make sure you have all

SEE CAREER, PAGE A6

Spike Lee to speak at commencement

By **ABBY BIESMAN**
News & Features Editor

The University announced that Spike Lee, a writer, director, producer and entrepreneur, will be the 2016 commencement speaker on May 18 at the Royal Farms Arena.

Lee's films raise questions about race and prejudice. He completed his undergraduate studies at Morehead College majoring in mass communications, and received a Master of Fine Arts degree from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. He currently serves as artistic director of the Graduate Film Program at Tisch.

His most recent film, *Chi-Raq*, was released in 2015 and addressed gun control focusing on gang violence in Chicago.

Lee was awarded an Academy Honorary Award in November, but he did not attend the February ceremony as part of a protest movement

that aimed to foster diversity in Hollywood, which stemmed from the nomination of no actors of color for the four, main Oscar acting awards.

His debut film, *She's Gotta Have It*, was released in 1986 and won the Prix de la Jeunesse award at the Cannes Film Festival. Some of his other films include *School Daze*, *Mo' Better Things* and *Summer of Sam*.

In addition to producing films, he has directed

SEE LEE, PAGE A6



CC BY 2.0/ ANDERS KRUSBERG
Spike Lee was the recipient of the Peabody Award in 2011.

Sophomore housing selection moves online

By **KELSEY KO**
Staff Writer

The sophomore housing selection process was revamped and moved online this year. The Housing Office introduced this new method in order to reduce competition and improve ease of use. The Class of 2019 was divided about the success of the new process with many students expressed frustrations about miscommunication from the Housing Office.

Tracey Angel, director of Housing and Operations, discussed how this year's process differed from that of previous years.

"The main difference between past years and this year is technology and ease of use for students," Angel wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "In the past, students registered for room selection online, were given a random group lottery number and would come to an in-person process and wait their turn for an hour or more. It was very stressful for students. In the new process, students choose their unit/room

online in a 20 minute time block. With this new process, students are able to sign their contracts electronically and choose a meal plan in the comfort of their own rooms."

Students were emailed their assigned time slot on Wednesday, March 9 after signing up online as a single or in groups of two, three or four. The selection process began on Monday, March 21 with those who registered in groups of two or more. People who registered for singles selected their room the following day.

Angel feels this transition from the in-person to online-based housing process is important because many universities have already adopted an online method.

"We felt strongly that the move from an in-person process to an online process was a huge step forward. Many of our peer institutions had invested in a housing software where students are able to choose their housing online," Angel wrote. "The difficulties have been behind the scenes. There was a lot of work involving transfer of data and setting up multiple processes/interfaces. Staff has spent many months getting this accomplished in time for room selection this year."

However, the Housing Office struggled to inform students about the new method in the weeks leading up to the week of room selection. Informational meetings about room selection held in the AMR I Multi-Purpose Room in late February and early March could not seat the number of students who

SEE HOUSING, PAGE A4

FAS panel debates policing in America

By **MORGAN OME**
For *The News-Letter*

The Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS) hosted The Future of Policing in America: A Moderated Panel, during which the speakers discussed measures that could be taken to improve policing policy in the United States.

The panel, hosted on Tuesday in Shriver Hall, featured Baltimore City Police Commissioner Kevin Davis, Pulitzer-prize nominated investigative journalist Mark Puente of *The Baltimore Sun*, Executive Director of the Arab American Association of New York and co-founder of Muslims for Ferguson Linda Sarsour and District 7 Council Member and Democratic mayoral candidate Nick Mosby.

Journalist and public-policy fellow Donovan X. Ramsey, who was slotted to attend, was not present. Margaret Huang, the interim executive director of Amnesty International USA, moderated the discussion.

Huang opened the panel by asking each speaker to share his or her thoughts on the past, present and future of policing in America.

Puente discussed the 2014 *Sun* investigation, titled "Undue Force," which details citizens' allegations of excessive police force in Baltimore.

"Between 2011-2014, the city settled 102 lawsuits for about \$6 million. Within those

SEE FAS, PAGE A5

HelWell's role and reputation

Do students have unrealistic expectations?

By **AMY HAN**
Staff Writer

The University's Student Health and Wellness Center (HelWell or SHWC) often has a bad reputation, with stories floating around of misdiagnosis, ineffectual remedies and excessive prescription of antibiotics.

Apart from the horror stories, which circulate quickly around campus, many students report routinely pleasant experiences with HelWell and its staff. The disparity in experiences may partially arise from a misunderstanding of the clinic's role — where it fits on the spectrum of different types of health care services.

HelWell is a clinic that aims "to support the education and development of students by promoting their optimal health and



LEON SANTHAKUMAR/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

When in need, students appreciate HelWell's caring and attentive staff.

well-being," according to its website. Its staff of physicians and registered nurses provide acute illness care, routine physical exams, a variety of immunizations, sexual and reproductive health services, allergy shots and tests for the flu, mono, and strep throat.

While it is not a hospital, Dr. Alain Joffe, the

director of HelWell, notes that the center far exceeds the care at any high school nurse's office and should be viewed as a similar service to doctor's offices back home. For college students, who may not have primary care physicians, the most familiar analogue would be their pediatrician.

"The high school

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Check the spring blooms

Don't forget to stop and look at the beauty of spring in this week's Photo Essay.
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What to do about HelWell

The Editorial Board talks about ways HelWell can improve and how students can be more satisfied with their experiences. **EDITORIAL, PAGE A10**

Policing within our community

An update on the status of policing and security in Baltimore since the riots.
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NEWS & FEATURES

BPD strives to improve community relations



FILE PHOTO
The murder rate in Baltimore skyrocketed in 2015.

By PETER JI
Staff Writer

In response to high-profile cases around the country that have brought police misconduct into the spotlight, including the Freddie Gray case in Baltimore, police departments have made efforts to improve relations with local communities and combat the growing mistrust in police.

There have been increased calls for officers to be not only a protective but also a friendly presence in communities and engage with those they are supposed to protect. By increasing their presence on the streets, police hope to both reduce crime and build relationships with local community leaders and ordinary people. Many city leaders say that community cooperation makes police work more effective as officers get more information about specific offenses and crime trends in the area.

The movement for a community-based approach for policing has also extended to Hopkins. Campus Safety and Security has stepped up patrols in and around campus by partnering their officers with Baltimore Police Department (BPD) officers. Campus Safety and Security also works with private security companies in order to increase their ability to patrol the Hopkins area. In total, the office employs almost 300 personnel, which includes 50 campus police officers, 40 BPD officers and around 200 Hop Cops, according to Executive Director Lee James.

He says that their partnerships with outside organizations have enabled them to track and prevent crime. They can also increase the coverage of their patrols and collaborate on handling current crime trends. As a result, Hopkins has a lower crime rate than the Baltimore average.

"I think because of our deployment and our partnership that the crime rate in Homewood is relatively low. If you're a bad guy, you're not coming here to commit crime," James said. "The crime rate is reflective of the deployment in place. We don't want our students or faculty being victimized."

In addition, student and community outreach continues to play an important part in their mission. Some of their initiatives to connect with students include community safety walks, crime alerts and infosessions that are held throughout the year. They have also encouraged their employees to get to know people who live in the diverse neighborhoods that surround campus.

James said that one BPD officer has become so well-known to Charles Village that residents refer to him as "the mayor of Charles Village." He believes that

community policing efforts have been successful in keeping students safe around the clock by maintaining a clear police presence.

"We're meeting people who live in the community, letting them get to know more about our officers and the BPD police officers," he said.

The BPD intends to train more of its officers on how to conduct foot patrols. The department appointed a new police commissioner Kevin Davis last fall following the city's unrest and spike in homicide.

Davis, who has extensive experience in community engagement, devised fresh ideas for the department. The BPD has also changed the structure of its Community Collaboration Division, according to Director of Media Relations TJ Smith. The purpose was to give the officers unified direction. Before the change, one commander led the unit for each of the city's nine police divisions.

He asserted that targeting young people will allow the police to build relationships earlier that they can carry throughout their lives. Even if the high school students do not become police officers, he hopes that by targeting young people who grow up in Baltimore, they can reduce the misconceptions that stand between them and the police. After the decades of mistrust that have existed between citizens and police, building trust requires a generational effort.

The No Boundaries Coalition, a community group, recently released a report on police misconduct in Sandtown-Winchester as part of the West Baltimore Community Commission on Police Misconduct. The report notes that Sandtown-Winchester residents blame the systemic mistrust on aggressive law enforcement policy. The harsh, no-tolerance approach that officers took caused them to become less involved and unresponsive to the community's complaints, it says.

"The War on Drugs and War on Crime discourses that empower officers to act more aggressively and invasively and weaken the institutional mechanisms by which citizens could seek legal redress and hold law enforcement accountable for any perceived misconduct. As a result, the emphasis on drug policing allows officers the legal pretense to 'do whatever they want,'" it stated.

Complaints about police misconduct are not handled as well as other major cities handle them, according to Brian Hammock, a candidate for Baltimore City Council for the fourth district. According to an op-ed he wrote in *The Baltimore Sun* in June, the Civilian Review Board lacks manpower and specific procedures or a timeline on handling complaints.

"When it works, it works great, but when it doesn't, there are concerns. Often the DOJ [Department of Justice] mandates that they have one.

In Baltimore, we have one, but it's not functional any longer," he said.

The BPD is currently being investigated by the DOJ for discriminatory policing and excessive force. Giving the Civilian Review Board more power would likely be a key step toward restoring trust with citizens, according to Hammock.

The No Boundaries Coalition reports that neighborhoods with higher rates of police misconduct are often unsafe and underserved, which adds to the sense of fear and abandonment that residents experience. It says this is the result of police failing to properly investigate crimes. Few areas want less policing and instead are looking for better policing.

"Beyond police misconduct issues we have communities that are not safe today. As I campaign, I have yet to hear a person who wants fewer police officers in the neighborhood," Hammock said.

Smith said that police officers will undergo training on how to do foot patrols, which give them greater visibility in the areas that they patrol rather than in a patrol car.

"Most notably, one of the things that we're doing is foot patrol curriculum, where we have created one which we believe is one of the first of its kind in the county. Oftentimes we've told officers to do foot patrol, and we haven't given instructions on how to do foot patrols," he said.

To try to get officers to know the area they serve, the BPD has a History of Baltimore speakers series where officers go to historic locations in Baltimore and learn about the community's history.

Still, many on the BPD force do not continuously work in the same neighborhood for an extended amount of time during their careers. Smith says that many do not live in the city. He says that this

is an area for improvement. Hammock agrees.

"In Baltimore we suffer from a transient force where we bring in a new crop of police officers that rotate every five years. We need to do better recruitment and retention of police officers," he said.

To start more positive interactions between police and young citizens, the BPD has expanded a program called the Police Youth Challenge (PYC). It's a partnership with Baltimore Chesapeake Bay Outward Bound School that pairs a police officer or trainees with high school-aged children and has them do team-building exercises.

In 2012 the BPD had every trainee to go through the program, but since the 2015 unrest BPD has aimed to have all staff, including command staff, attend the weekly Thursday activities at Gwynns Falls Leakin Park or other locations. Six hundred individuals, about 30 officers and students each week, have attended this year so far.

The Bloomberg School of Public Health has an upcoming study on how the program has changed the youth's perception of officers and the officer's perception of youth.

"The common thread that runs from week to week is the astonishment of youth that the officers are just people like them and share many of the same likes, dislikes, fears and hopes. The officers also see the youth through a different lens, and take those perspectives back into their jobs. Ninety percent of them reported that they had the skills to positively interact with youth after their PYC day. To match that, 81 percent of youth said they felt officers were trustworthy after their course," Ben Worden, marketing director of Outward Bound, wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

"Beyond police misconduct issues we have communities that are not safe today."

— BRIAN HAMMOCK,
CITY COUNCIL
"CANDIDATE"

Europe mourns Brussels attacks

By JACQUI NEBER
News & Features Editor

At least 31 people died and 300 were wounded in explosions that struck two Brussels locations on Tuesday. The Zaventem Airport and Maelbeek metro station experienced explosions at the hands of four terrorists, two of whom were confirmed to be brothers and Belgian nationals. On Wednesday Brussels authorities determined that 24-year-old Najim Laachraoui, who had been linked to the November 2015 Paris attacks, was the second airport suicide bomber. The identity of the third airport bomber is unknown. Daesh claimed responsibility for the attacks in a statement released via the Amaq News Agency, a group that's been linked to the militant extremists, according to NPR. The attacks forced Brussels into lockdown until about 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

Ibrahim el-Bakraoui, 29, and Laachraoui blew themselves up at Brussels airport at 7:58 a.m. that morning.

A third airport attacker packed a suitcase with explosives, but it failed to go off. El-Bakraoui's younger brother Khalid carried out the second suicide attack at the train station at 9:11 a.m. Brussels remains on high alert.

At least one of the bombs used in these attacks caused more damage and was physically more powerful than the bombs used in Paris. Its detonation blew out windows in the Zaventem Airport and shook nearby buildings, according to *The New York Times*.

The people of Brussels continue to mourn those wounded and lost with ceremonies and memorials throughout the city.

Hopkins has also responded to the tragedy. The American flag outside the Milton S. Eisenhower Library has been put at half-mast and many students have expressed their sympathy and support for Belgians through a number of social media sites. Although the blue jay statue that stands on the freshman quad was painted in response to the

Date set for 2016 SGA exec. board election

By CINDY YUAN
For *The News-Letter*

The Student Government Association (SGA) passed a bill requesting the approval and funding for the first annual Celebrity Kickball Tournament, introduced by Junior Class Senator Liam Haviv, at its weekly meeting on Tuesday. It also appointed a new sophomore class senator on Wednesday to fill a vacancy.

Sophomore John Tycher assumed the position formerly held by sophomore Kwame Alston, who recently stepped down. Sophomore Class President Anna Du explained why Tycher was appointed by the SGA rather than elected by the student body as Alston was.

"We followed the rules set by SGA the constitution and bylaws," Du wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "In case of any SGA vacancy, the SGA decides amongst themselves."

The Celebrity Kickball Tournament is a new initiative from SGA and FSI (Faculty-Student Interaction) designed to connect students, faculty and staff. The event will take place on April 10 during alumni weekend. Twelve professors and four administrators will play against four teams of students. Southern Tide and Ublend will sponsor the event and offer T-shirts, water bottles and other merchandise. Food, drinks and snacks will also be sold.

The tournament is going to be a kick-off event for Relay for Life of the American Cancer Society with all proceeds going to cancer research.

Inspired by Tessa Wiseman, a senior at Hopkins who was diagnosed with cancer earlier this semester, Haviv proposed writing "Team Tessa" on the patches for kickball shirts.

"Tessa Wiseman is an RA," Haviv said. "She is a hugely important part of our community. And I'm personally a very good friend of Tessa's. I don't know if there is anybody I have as many good things to say about as Tessa Wise-

man. Because we're doing something for Relay for Life, we want to do something for her, because so many people know her and care about her."

Junior Class Senator Adelaide Morphet agreed but suggested that the feelings of other students who have cancer or know someone with cancer should also be considered.

"I know Tessa as well. She's a beautiful human being, and I have so much respect for her," she said. "However, I can anticipate some students feeling a little bit put off if they know someone that has cancer. I think it's a great idea to pursue the patches idea. I think you should maybe rephrase it so it's not exclusively Tessa."

The SGA bill requested \$2,000 in funding and passed with unanimous support from SGA senators.

The SGA and FSI have been working on promoting interactions between professors, administrators and students on campus throughout the year with events such as High Table and Dorm Wars. However, according to Haviv, such interactions were not sustained and faculty and students were restrained by their respective roles on campus during these past events. The SGA wants to address this issue.

"Let's just have a little bit of fun on the very important weekend of the school. And let us step back and build relationships with people who exist on this campus as human beings rather than as professors, as students, as administrators and all of that," Haviv said.

The bill proposes that Hopkins fraternities grill food for the event.

"Fraternities will be spending time with their alumni during alumni weekend, and we would love if they spent time together at this event," Haviv said. "They are an extremely valued part of our community, and it would not be the same without their support."

Morphett agreed with this plan and suggested that sororities also be involved in the event. Freshman Class Senator Jennifer Baron recommended including professional and multicultural fraternities and sororities as well.

On Tuesday, SGA also discussed its upcoming executive board election. Information sessions will be held on March 29 at 8 p.m. in Charles Commons Salon A and on March 30 at 8 p.m. in Krieger 302. Campaigning will start after April 4. Voting will start on Friday, April 8 and continue through the weekend.

SGA members are prohibited from using their influence to interfere elections. The time for class elections will be discussed after executive board election is over.

Another issue discussed was to bring a bar back to campus. The senators brought up students' complaints about the inaccessibility of bars on campus and mentioned that a bar used to operate in Levering Hall.

"I'm really passionate about bringing the bar back," Executive President Jack Bartholet said. "I think it will make drinking safe on campus."

NEWS & FEATURES

Students participate in national startup fair

By **SHERRY KIM**
Staff writer

The first annual Startup Nation Technology Fair, a technology and innovation trade show that provides college students with the opportunity to explore new startup technology, took place on Wednesday evening in Gilman Hall. Participants could meet innovators behind the latest designs and network for internship placement at these startup companies.

This event was hosted by TAMID at JHU, student-led venture capital A-Level Capital, Alpha Kappa Psi, Center for Leadership Education (CLE), Google at Johns Hopkins and Med-Hacks. TAMID at JHU works to develop the professional skills of undergraduate students through investment, consulting and general knowledge of the interaction between Israeli and American economies.

A total of 10 startup companies were in attendance, including ReWalk, Consumer Physics, JInternship, Internship Israel, Onward Israel, OrCam, J-Screen, Zeekit, Diggidi and NI-O Toys. These companies are all Israeli-based, but also have operating offices in the United States.

Jeremy Kaner, sophomore, TAMID president and event co-organizer, discussed the companies present.

"Some of the companies in attendance are at the top in their respective fields, with really groundbreaking technologies," he said. "We're seeking to connect JHU students with these awesome companies, whether it be through internships, understanding

the technology, networking, meeting new people — just really opening up the JHU ecosystem to the entrepreneurial environment with many different business groups across many different industries and companies because about a year or two ago, there was not much going on at Hopkins in the entrepreneurship scene."

The Startup Nation Technology Fair is a joint effort of Israel Ideas, Hasbara Fellowships and pro-business student organizations intended to showcase Israeli technology and innovation and provide internship opportunities for students with Israeli companies. This semester, the fair is scheduled to take place across 13 different college campuses including George Washington University, American University and Emory University, among others. Hopkins is the penultimate stop for the traveling fair.

"Out of all the campuses we've been to, this is one of the best locations," said Fay Goldstein, Managing Director of Hasbara Fellowships. "I'm very impressed with the turnout — not necessarily only with the numbers, [because] technically we've had bigger numbers at other campuses — but more than the numbers, what I'm really impressed with is the caliber of students that are at this event. Everyone really seems to be here for the right reasons. Our specific target audience has shown up to the event, which is very impressive looking in from our end."

During the fair's opening ceremony, each com-

pany in attendance briefly introduced themselves and their respective startup products.

ReWalk, a company producing wearable robotic exoskeletons powering hip and knee motion to enable individuals with spinal cord injury to stand upright, walk, turn, climb and descend stairs, provided a special demonstration with a guest representative who was a successful customer of their exoskeleton product.

With events like the Startup Nation Technology Fair, Hopkins is taking steps towards furthering innovation and entrepreneurial advancement.

"A lot of what we study at Hopkins, in mechanical engineering at least, is not traditional," Radhika Rajaram, a master's student in Mechanical Engineering, said. "Hopkins has really been pioneering the frontiers of technology... People here are, and really want to be, taking the unconventional route. I think that's why they chose Hopkins."

Professor Lawrence Aronhime, a senior lecture at the CLE and faculty advisor for this event, commented on the goals of the fair.

"Anything that encourages students to think about life in a startup is a good thing that we should do more of," he said. "This is in contrast to the more traditional paths that we often encourage undergraduates to take — in the world of big banks, big consulting, big engineering and big medical devices, among others. The more that we can encourage entrepreneurship on campus, the better. With

the encouragement and support of the various departments and the senior administration, the entrepreneurial environment at Hopkins will only continue to get better."

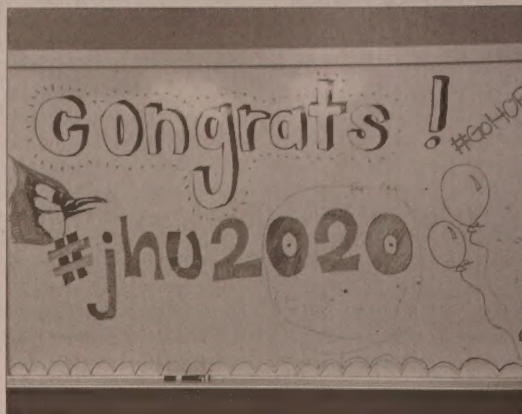
Sophomore Brooks Marshall, who helped organize this event as a TAMID partner, spoke to the growing entrepreneur community on campus. He also explained that the fair tries to bring established startups to campus in order to provide an example of the success student startups can achieve.

"I think a lot of students have ideas that they want to use, a lot of things they want to build — obviously there are a lot of engineers on campus — but maybe people don't understand the process it takes," he said.

The fair ended with a *Shark Tank*-style competition, in which student groups pitched their startup ideas. The winning team, Touch+, including freshman Brandon Duderstat (presenter), sophomore Mariano Pennini, freshman Matias Eisler and freshman Bijan Varjavand, won a prize compensation of \$1,000.

"We came up with this idea at the spring Hackathon at JHU," Pennini said. "Our product is a cane augmentation device for the visually impaired, which provides feedback to the blind individual in the form of a two-by-five grid of vibration sensors on the user's wrist. We perform the analysis of objects that are near the person and relay that information according to where it is in their field of view on their wrist."

Hopkins admits 3,098 to Class of 2020



COURTESY OF ABBY BIESMAN

Hopkins welcomed potential members of the new class on Friday.

By **CLAIRE FOX**
Staff Writer

On Friday, 2,539 out of 25,188 applicants were admitted to the Hopkins Class of 2020.

Joining the 559 admitted in December, the prospective students who received an online acceptance letter last week make up a record applicant pool totaling 27,095 — a 9.6 percent increase from last year.

"It's not surprising to me at all that the rates of applicants have increased," sophomore Anna Garcia said. "Students want to come to Hopkins, now more than ever, because there are boundless opportunities here. And I definitely think that [the Office of Undergraduate Admissions] does not admit students that aren't capable of handling all of the stress of this school."

Not only does this admitted class beat other

years academically, with 95 percent of students in the top 10 percent of their high school class and an average GPA of 3.93, it also breaks University records in terms of diversity: 37 percent of accepted students identify as underrepresented minority members and 52 percent are female.

The admitted class hails from 49 states and 57 countries. The most represented states are California, Maryland, New York, New Jersey, Florida and Texas. The most represented countries are Canada, South Korea, China, India and the United Kingdom.

Sophomore Will Whalenbridge commented on how impressive this year's accepted students are.

"I read that people in this class have created patented inventions and someone won a film award, which is crazy," he said. "But even though it's crazy, it's not super surprising because this is Hopkins and smart people want to go here."

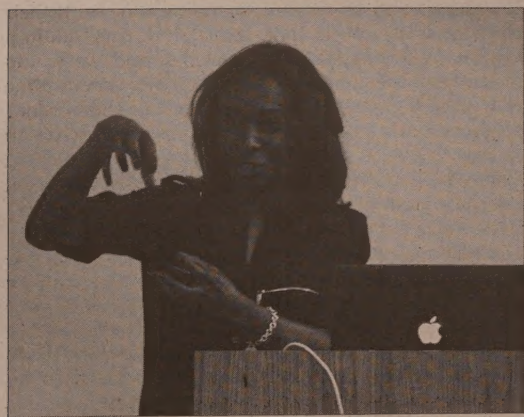
This year's admissions additionally recognized 33 students as Clark Scholars, a newly implemented scholarship platform created in a conjunction between the Clark Charitable Foundation and the Whiting School of Engineering. The Clark Scholars Program distinguishes talented engineering students and presents them with enriched academic programs and service opportunities, including faculty mentors, leadership seminars and chances to network with professional engineers. If these students qualified for financial aid, the scholarship provides a generous grant to those in need.

Sophomore Ariana Sherman, a Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering major, thought that the new scholarship provides these students with an unparalleled opportunity.

"It's great to hear that talented engineers are being recognized for their efforts," she said. "The one-on-one opportunity is great, because there is nothing like having a mentor with tons of experience help you out. I'm jealous that the Class of 2020 as this available to some of them."

Admitted students have until May 2 to secure a spot in the official Class of 2020 and in the meantime can visit the University in tours reserved for only admitted students, along with the Spring Open House and Overnight Program (SO-HOP), which will take place this year on April 6-7 and April 13-14.

Angelica Ross shares experience as trans woman



LEON SANTHAKUMAR/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Ross spoke to students in Charles Commons Salon C Monday.

By **MEAGAN PEOPLES**
Staff Writer

The Office for Multicultural Affairs (OMA) hosted Angelica Ross, an African American transgender activist and business woman, on Monday. The talk, which was originally scheduled as a part of the Ethical Challenges of a Diverse Society speaker series for Black History Month was rescheduled due to snow. Ross, who is also an actor and author, spoke about her own life as a trans woman as well as the creative design firm which she founded, TransTech social enterprises, and her role in the TV series *Her Story*.

Named a "foot soldier of the year" by former MSNBC host Melissa Harris-Perry in 2015, Ross started her own company in order to empower transgender and gender-nonconforming people by providing job

training and workplace skills.

Ross began her talk by using the analogy of the caterpillar and the butterfly, likening it to the experience of being transgender. It seems easy when viewed from the outside, but in reality it is a painful experience. Ross, who was raised Christian but currently identifies as Buddhist, talked about how religion helped her find worth in her life and experiences.

"Buddhism put me on the path to discover my value. When my mother, who claimed to be an agent of God, told me to kill myself, she said either you kill yourself, or I will kill myself because I cannot live with the thought of you," she said.

After this conversation with her mother, Ross attempted to kill herself by swallowing several pills.

"I took all the pills in the cabinet and just blacked out. And I woke

up at some time in the middle of the night, thank God, and I was basically throwing up everything I had swallowed," she said. "I hear so many people talking about God speaking to them... but I had this moment where I identified with God speaking to me," she said. "But the reality is God said, 'Why are you trying so hard to make me love you when I created you? Don't listen to what they're saying, I know you. What're you doing? Just get up and walk, and I'll walk with you.'"

A leader in the transgender community, Ross went on to talk about what led her to start her company. She spoke about the differences between the goals of the transgender community and the greater LGBTQ community and why she felt she had to start her own trans-focused company in order to achieve the results that she wanted.

"You have trans issues that have been historically placed at the bottom, not just by the society, but by my gay and lesbian and bisexual brothers and sisters," she said. "We have cis people who are running programs that are designed to address trans communities. Not only are they running [them], but they are also the spokespeople of organizations, the medical field, the federal government, and they're positioning themselves as gatekeepers."

Addressing the current

attitudes within television and movies towards transgender people, Ross discussed the television series which she is starring in, *Her Story*.

"It's directed by a trans person, it's acted by trans people, it features trans people on its soundtrack," she said.

A love story, the show follows the lives of two transgender women who live in Los Angeles. In a clip of the show, which Ross played, her character and another are on a first date. Ross went on to talk about dating as a transwoman and how she makes the decision to tell someone she is transgender.

"Society has put us in the place where they feel that it's almost my duty to tell you my personal medical, anatomy history," she said. "It shouldn't have to be this sort of life and death situation."

Ross talked about the hardship she went through growing up and the reaction of her community, especially at her church.

"As soon as I started to show signs of femininity, they started to pray on me, the pastor would lay his hands on me and pray, p-r-a-y. But what I have really come to feel is that they preyed on me, p-r-e-y-e-d," she said. "If you can't see the beauty in all things you don't have the right to speak for all people... because you don't see how I can pick up my cross and walk."

Discussing self-acceptance, Ross spoke of a traumatic experience which led her to acknowledge her true gender identity. After her attempted suicide, Ross joined the military where she tried again to hide her true feelings.

"They hung me out the third floor window trying to get me to admit. In the time of Don't Ask Don't Tell [the military's former ban on openly gay and lesbian service members], they were asking me to tell," she said. "They were hanging me out the window by my ankles, on the third floor. And I saw my life flash before my eyes, and I knew that when I left that room that I would never, ever, ever try to live my life as someone else because it nearly cost me my life... That decision you make, to give up your power, to give up your identity... is like signing your own death certificate."

Senior Diamond Hale enjoyed the talk, saying she identified with Ross' theme of acceptance.

"I think Angelica Ross did a phenomenal job of truly getting people to see her transgendered experience. We all go through changes in life, and we all want to love and be loved. If we see these similarities and appreciate these differences, what is stopping us from embracing our own authentic self and everyone else's?" Hale wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

NEWS & FEATURES

Despite faults, students satisfied with HelWell Freshmen upset with new housing process

HELWELL FROM A1

nurse's office usually just has a registered nurse, who can give things like Tylenol or Advil, or take a student's temperature and maybe a few things more. But they cannot assess and treat students. If a student is sick, their parents have to pick them up and take them to their doctor," Joffe wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

"We are like a doctor's office — we have physicians and nurse practitioners on staff, all credentialed through Johns Hopkins Hospital, as well as RNs, medical assistants, and administrative staff. So we make diagnoses, recommend treatments, order lab tests, the same things your doctor at home would do."

HelWell provides services that a typical doctor's office does not, such as international travel consults, the administration of intravenous fluids and a limited pharmacy service that sells medications. HelWell also has a dietician at the clinic once a week to help students with concerns about eating behaviors, weight and nutrition.

A Horror Story

Some students have experienced decidedly negative trips to HelWell, and the stories spread to create a negative perception of the clinic. Sophomore Rong Liu shared her experience with the center:

"Once I was there getting my blood drawn. The first person that attended to me had a hard time drawing blood and kept pushing the tube but couldn't get blood to come out. A second tried, and halfway through the needle somehow slipped out from my arm, and the blood splattered everywhere, and my arm started getting swollen. In the end, a third person successfully drew my blood, but I've never had a needle slip out before, and I was scared to death."

Praise Despite Miscommunication

Despite the popular idea that most people have negative experiences at the clinic, the Student Health and Wellness Center has garnered mostly positive reviews. According to its most recent student satisfaction survey of around 1700 responses, 95 percent of students were either satisfied or very satisfied with the care they received.

Freshman Aubrey Roland accredited his positive experience at HelWell to the friendly staff.

"I went to get STD tested, and they were really chill about it, though they forgot to do one of the tests. I had a few vials of blood taken and later on, after I had to come back since they forgot, and I had a throat swab. Aside from their forgetting about the one test, I really had nothing to complain about, and overall it was a rather positive experience," Roland said. "I expected the people there to be very judgmental and possibly even homophobic. However, all the staff were very accepting and kind."

Freshman Michael Ontiveros also praised the staff for being efficient and responsive, noting that other students' negative experiences at HelWell might be attributed to misunderstand-

ings with the staff.

"I had an enjoyable experience. I went in for something potentially concerning to me. I expected the norm from clinics: a 45-minute wait. I waited about 10 minutes and was attended [to]. I asked the questions I had and received the answers for them. The physician that helped me was very helpful. The staff treats you exactly how you treat them," Ontiveros said. "I feel that people may receive negative treatment as a response to their manner with the staff."

Sophomore Audrey Adams agrees with the general consensus that the staff is kind and attentive but also noted some communication issues she has experienced with the staff.

"I've had a lot of friends go there for birth control, so I really appreciate how discrete and supportive they are," she said. "Also, the receptionists there are nice people and excellent at their jobs, which I don't think they get enough acknowledgement for."

Improvement

Adams explained how she believes HelWell can improve their student services.

"As much as I liked all of the providers I've seen there, I think they have a problem with helping people feel better, which I think could be rectified by providing more information upfront, without students having to push for it," she said. "They didn't do a good job in explaining to me what was wrong, how I should treat it and what I should do if it got worse."

Freshman Kayla Ma, who received an asthma inhaler for her cold despite not having been diagnosed with asthma, also noted that the staff wasn't particularly good at explaining to her why they prescribed her with certain treatment.

"I had been suffering from a serious recurrent cold for a month or so, and my cough was getting really bad, so I went to the Helwell. The first time I went I was feeling really unwell, but they said I did not have an appointment and asked me to return the next day. I was expecting cough syrup for my cold that would probably help to alleviate it more effectively. However, I received an asthma inhaler and decongestant, when I already mentioned I have used the latter from Char-Mar for the past couple of weeks, but it was not working very well," Ma said. "Perhaps the inhaler is to target the cause for my prolonged recovery, but from my previous experiences with the GP, I think supplementing these medicines with more immediate symptomatic treatment would possibly be more effective in alleviating my discomforts."

Both Adams and Ma believe that the HelWell staff should, along with prescribing treatments, better inform students about how to use said prescriptions and what they can do to get better after they leave the clinic.

Joffe pointed out that while many students don't necessarily know about all the components of the Student Health and Wellness Center, it is already heavily involved in health education and promotion.

"I think it is also important to point out that

CHEW, the Center for Health Education and Wellness, is a part of the SHWC — they do all the health education and health promotion for the JHU Homewood Campus, including things like the BIT training, Stressbusters, and PEEPS. So we do have a big emphasis on health education and wellness, although I am not sure that students recognize that CHEW is part of SHWC," Joffe wrote.

Working with organizations such as the Stressbusters, HelWell acknowledges the amount of stress that Hopkins students experience and is taking steps to promote a mentally healthier student body.

Freshman Gloria Li noticed such efforts when she went to HelWell this week.

"In a previous public health class my professor actually criticized Hopkins' treatment for mental health. For example, something about the Health and Wellness Center being so far [away], it increased their mental anxiety of going there," Li said. "I went to HelWell today. When I was checking in at the computer inside HelWell, I noticed that they conducted a mental health survey, too. I think it's nice of them to do that. I do see that people at HelWell are making a change. They were very nice to me, so it was a good experience for me."

Moving Forward

The Student Health and Wellness Center still faces certain limitations due to its size and status as a clinic and often has to refer to other hospitals or specialists for more complex medical situations.

"We don't have X-ray on site. We don't have physical therapy on site. We are not a licensed pharmacy, so a student cannot come in with a prescription from another doctor and get it filled. We don't do EKGs here. We can't do any kind of surgeries or suture. We cannot cast someone with a fracture. But most doctors' offices don't do these things either," Joffe wrote. "We don't turn students away. But if a student needs a higher level of care, we get them to where they need to be, usually the ER."

Joffe also mentioned that while some student may have the misconception that they will be referred immediately to the extensive Hopkins medical network, such attention isn't possible for non-urgent cases.

"The medical campus and Homewood are not close, so we don't have shared facilities," he wrote. "I think that some students may think that because JHU has a medical school and hospital, that they can get seen by a Hopkins specialist immediately. In the case of an emergency that is true. But otherwise students will have to wait weeks to months to see a specialist for a non-urgent condition."

In one instance, freshman Kacey Bae recalled the Student Health and Wellness Center reaching out to provide services directly, preventing her from spending time at a hospital.

"HelWell actually called me because the emergency response team filed their report, and HelWell wanted to know

if I was okay or needed anything else. I'd gotten stitches during an accident, and when I mentioned that, they said I could make an appointment with them and take them out instead of going back to the hospital and waiting forever," Bae said. "My appointment went really smoothly, and the nurse who took out my stitches was really friendly. She answered all my questions and told me when the procedure would feel somewhat uncomfortable. It was over very quickly and my wound is healing well, so I really have no complaints."

The Student Health and Wellness Center has a nurse advice line available when the center is closed, and while Joffe believes that HelWell is open a sufficient number of hours each week, he doesn't think that the clinic is sufficiently staffed.

"I would like to have a dietician here two days per week — we are working on that," Joffe wrote. "We have had some staff turnover this semester, so we are not quite fully staffed right now. But we have hired a number of new staff and I expect that we will be back to full staffing by May 1. It would be great if we could provide physical therapy on site, but we don't have the space for it."

The current staff is doing their best to attend to student needs and follow up whenever necessary. Freshman Yuyan Pu said they acted responsibly and quickly when she came to them thinking she had mononucleosis.

"I was coughing and my sinuses were messed up, so I scheduled a HelWell appointment," Pu said. "They tested me for mono and the flu, and I tested positive for mono. It made me wonder how many people I've shared food with. However, they took my blood in case it was a false positive — it was. They emailed me later to tell me that I most likely just had a virus and that I could schedule another appointment if I wasn't feeling better."

While there are still many students unaware of HelWell's services and unsatisfied with the treatment provided by its staff, most students at the Homewood campus appreciate the Center and its staff for what they do to promote a healthy student body.

HOUSING FROM A1

were interested in learning about the new process. Moreover, Housing Portal Demos scheduled to take place in Shaffer 3 on Thursday, March 10 were cancelled due to scheduling conflicts. The Housing Portal Demo was sent to students through an email instead.

"In order to prepare the students for this process we held multiple information sessions and informational booths as well as small group meetings with random student groups and countless hours of portal testing," Angel wrote. "We faced challenges in educating students on the new system and encouraging our staff members to think outside the box in terms of the possibilities of a new process. We spent months inviting key stakeholders and students to learn and experience the new housing software. As with any change, obstacles will continue arise but we are now well prepared to answer and respond to questions even in the most unique of circumstances."

Many freshmen voiced frustrations about what they felt was a lack of communication. Freshman Jess Miller-Suchet split up her group of four into two groups of two people in order to have a better chance at getting Commons, Homewood or Bradford. Students could watch a page of available rooms that was updated every 10 minutes.

"I've been watching [the page] kind of obsessively. All the quads for Commons, Bradford and Homewood are gone, and they were gone by 6 p.m. so everyone is in McCoy now if they're in a quad, unless they decide to gamble and wait until the next day," Miller-Suchet said.

Freshman Jon Silveira explained that a rumor had gone around the student body that the final time slot was 11 p.m. when in fact it was 8:40 p.m., so many students slotted for 6 p.m. or later believed they had a good chance at getting the housing that they wanted. The information that the

final time slot was 8:40 p.m. could be found on the Hopkins at Home website that was linked in emails sent out to students, but it was not explicitly stated in the emails.

"We thought that it was going to end at 11 because that's what someone told everyone. Since we thought we were in the first half of [the time slots], we thought that there would be room for us [in Commons]," Silveira said. "We went with the preconceived idea that it was going to be fine. Had we had better communication, we would've made a different decision."

Freshman Jenna Bellantoni had also believed the final time slot was 11 p.m., and as a result her group was unable to secure an 11-month housing plan to stay at Hopkins over the summer.

"We will continue to assess the student experience."

— TRACEY ANGEL, DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND OPERATIONS

My group of four had 8:20, and the last time slot was 8:40. If we had known that, we would have split up because we all wanted Commons 11-month," Bellantoni said.

On the other hand, some students were lucky. Freshman Eva Izquierdo had the first time slot at 3 p.m. on Monday afternoon and is content with how her housing turned out.

"We were super excited knowing that we could plan everything out way beforehand because we were in the first time slot to choose. We already decided that we wanted to live in Commons when we made our group of four, and instead of us choosing based on room size we wanted to get a room with a nice view," Izquierdo said. "We got the room we wanted."

Angel said that since the online room selection process is new, the Housing Office is still working to improve it.

"Unexpected problems will continue to arise, but being able to resolve them quickly and with minimal disruption to the students will always be paramount," Angel wrote. "We will continue to assess the student experience so that we can improve the system even further for next year."



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NEWS & FEATURES

FAS hosts panel on future of policing amid brutality cases

FAS FROM A1

findings, we reported that most of these encounters that led to arrests and lawsuits were questionable," he said.

Puente was particularly troubled by the alleged treatment of some of those who sued the Baltimore Police Department (BPD), citing examples of an 87-year-old grandmother who called the police because her grandson was shot and left with a broken shoulder after being attacked by an officer, as well as a 26-year-old pregnant woman who called to report a beating she had witnessed and a hostile encounter she had experienced.

Davis' opening comments focused on the history of the BPD.

"The Baltimore Police Department, not unlike other big-county police departments in America, has experienced several lapses over the last several years," he said. "We realize that 2015 has defined American policing and its future in a very different way... We're the nation's eighth largest police department and for far too many years, our agency, like other agencies that struggle with violence, really turned into a one-dimensional police department where the only thing that mattered was reducing violence."

Davis found the "zero-tolerance" approach to policing problematic because it did not reduce violence on a large scale and only widened the gap between the BPD and poor, minority communities. He stressed that as commissioner he does not count numbers of arrests, field stops or citations, which many police departments do in order to reward officers. Davis wants to change the way police officers interact with communities.

Mosby agreed with Davis that the zero-tolerance approach and the related "War on Drugs," which has led to many felony convictions for crimes like marijuana possession, have not been effective in reducing violence. He emphasized that police should target repeat offenders who are the most violent and dangerous offenders.

Sarsour talked about the role of the police in New York City where she works as a social and political activist. She disagreed with Davis when he said that 2015 was a defining year for policing in America. She attributed the spotlight on police violence to an increase in iPhone videos of police brutality, social media campaigns and public outcries for change rather than any actual differences in policing.

"Who polices us from the police?" she asked.

Huang then shifted the conversation toward the legal problems associated with excessive police force, specifically the use of lethal force. She referenced a June 2015 Amnesty International report titled *Deadly Force: Police Use of Lethal Force in the United States* which found that U.S. state laws did not comply with international laws and standards on the use of lethal force by law enforcement.

"What would it take to get our state legislators, including here in Maryland, to take action to actually base police policy on when to use lethal force on the most protective of life standards?" she asked.

"Who polices us from the police?"
— LINDA SARSOUR,
CO-FOUNDER OF
MUSLIMS FOR
FERGUSON

Sarsour claimed that it is difficult to legislate against the culture of policing that is prevalent in our nation today.

What police officers understand from the culture of policing in this country is that they can use lethal force, they can kill unarmed people, they can beat you bloody, and they know they aren't going to get in trouble for it," she said.

Mosby discussed the importance of hiring police officers who have a stake in Baltimore. He stated that only 23 percent of BPD officers live in the city of Baltimore. He said that employing officers who are invested in the community will change the relationship between citizens and law enforcement.

"The one thing that we must do a better job at, and I commend the police commissioner on this, is recruiting and attracting folks who understand and know what Baltimore City is and what Baltimore City is about," Mosby said.

Huang then asked how panelists believed the U.S. could address the problem of race in policing.

Davis discussed efforts on behalf of the BPD to increase cultural sensitivity and educate officers about the community.

"Some of the things we're doing to talk about race differently within the Baltimore PD, as opposed to having a traditional classroom-style lecture on what cultural sensitivity should look like, is we've introduced a speaker series curriculum titled 'The History of Baltimore.' We're introducing Baltimore cops to each and every aspect of the city that defines this great place," he said. "If you're not from here and you don't understand how this city evolved over the years, you're likely to look at people who don't look like you differently, and the police department has an obligation to train differently."

Sarsour pointed to statistics regarding people of color and policing.

"When we look at police departments across the country, we know for a fact through information, through quotas, that they are disproportionately impacting and policing communities of color," she said.

Sarsour dissented from the view that police departments should try to hire more individuals from the community. She stated that all police officers have to work under a system, so focusing on the individual officer's origin fails to address the core problem. Sarsour highlighted the need to change the current system in which police unions, prosecutors and district attorneys are embedded into politics. She further emphasized that in her experience, people of color do not cite the police as a component of a safe community.

Puente acknowledged the intersection of race and culture in policing. He explained that in *Undue Force*, out of around 40 published mugshot photos of citizens alleging police brutality, only one contained a white individual.

"It wasn't white cops versus black citizens. It was white, Hispanic and black cops against black citizens, so it's not a black and white issue, it's black-white-brown against blue," Puente said. "The problems in Baltimore didn't happen overnight,



LEON SANTHAKUMAR/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The panel discussed a future where police are more held accountable for their actions in the U.S.

and it's going to take years, I believe, to solve the cultural problems where the police believe they can commit wrongdoing... It's not going to be solved overnight."

During the question and answer session, audience members posed several questions about the reasons behind an increase in homicides and fall in arrests, how police departments can be held more accountable for their actions, current methods of detainment and the prison-industrial complex.

A *News-Letter* reporter as the panelists about the lack of common sense exhibited by some police officers in their treatment of suspects, specifically recalling the reckless treatment of Freddie Gray after his arrest. In response, Davis discussed ways in which police departments can improve their behavior.

"When you look at police departments in Baltimore or elsewhere, if there is a significant gap between standard operating policies, and standard operating practices, that's where you run into trouble. [In] healthy police departments, those two things are really, really close, if not side by side, if not one in the same," he said. "Everything that we do is an effort to ensure that what we say, what we preach, what we mandate and what is practiced on the street, get closer each and every day."

After the event concluded, Puente said that he valued the discussion and respected his fellow panelists' opinions.

"I liked the fact that people are talking and getting into the problem, especially in a city like Baltimore that has so many problems," he said. "It's refreshing to hear, and for people to realize, that the status quo won't sustain this city."

Puente explained that while pursuing the investigation he did not know what effect the *Undue Force* series would have on the city of Baltimore.

"I went into the story with a mandate, 'Hey go check this out. We hear there are some issues with police brutality in Baltimore.' There was no proof, there were no records. I started pulling report files, searching on the case search. I compiled thousands of pages of records," Puente said. "It was a six-month investigation... I thought there could be some impact, but you can never predict impact on a newspaper story. The *Undue Force* series produced immediate impact. It was published on a Sunday. The mayor called for a press conference on Monday and said they were against brutality. Two days later they announced the Department of Justice was intervening."

Students appreciated

the range of opinions presented in the panel and the relevance of the topic of policing in America to the Hopkins community. Junior Haziq Siddiqi, president of the Jail Tutorial Project, was able to connect his own work with the various speakers' remarks.

"I work with Jail Tutorial, so a lot of the things that were talked about in the panel were things I have witnessed myself... I think this is a conversation that is really needed,

especially in light of what happened last year," he said. "What I really liked about the panel was the diversity in opinions. You had the police commissioner, and you also had Linda [Sarsour] who was advocating for the removal of police. I think it's exciting because we touched on a lot of important issues like mass incarceration and the prison industrial complex. I hope that this is a conversation that continues to happen."

Baltimore Scholars program expanded

By CATHERINE PALMER
News & Features Editor

The University announced Thursday that it will expand its Baltimore Scholars program to offer full-ride scholarships to Baltimore City public high school students.

The program, established in 2004, offered full-tuition scholarships to high school students who had lived in Baltimore and attended a local public school for at least three years who apply and are accepted to Hopkins. Under the new two-tier system, scholarships will cover room and board and fees in addition to tuition for students with family incomes of \$80,000 or less.

For students with family incomes between \$80,000 and \$150,000, the contribution by the family will be capped at 10 percent of their income, and students will receive a loan-free financial aid package."

"The changes to our Baltimore Scholars program will help us attract talented local students by making Johns Hopkins truly affordable," President Ronald J. Daniels said. "This program adds to an array of investments we have made in Baltimore schools and to our abiding commitment to Baltimore's students."

Members of the Class of 2020 will be the first students eligible for the new full-ride scholarships. Baltimore Scholars currently attending Hopkins will also receive significantly more aid depending on their families' incomes.

In order to compensate for offering more significant aid, the program will limit the number of students considered. Students will family incomes over \$150,000 will no longer be eligible for scholarships, though they will be considered for standard University financial aid.

Current high school

seniors with family income over \$150,000 will be grandfathered into the full-tuition program.

The University decided to change its scholarship program to meet the needs of talented students who need more substantial financial assistance that was previously offered.

"Recognizing high-potential students from the communities around Johns Hopkins campuses, it has attracted more than 180 of the city's brightest young scholars to its Homewood schools and the Peabody Institute. The changes respond to concerns from students, alumni and local supporters that the current program was not meeting the needs of academically talented students with the greatest financial need," the press release stated.

Vice Provost for Admission and Financial Aid David Phillips elaborated on the decision.

"We want to make sure that financial considerations do not factor into the decision to attend Johns Hopkins," Phillips said. "This program strengthens our investment in students with the greatest need."

The new scholarships will also, offer recipients unique opportunities.

"Opportunities like paid internships, peer and faculty mentoring, career networking and connections with alumni will enhance the undergraduate experience throughout a scholar's four years at Johns Hopkins. Scholars will also have access to specialized programming — dinners with deans and senior faculty and administrators, lecture series and scholar retreats — as well as supplemental funds for internship, research and study abroad opportunities," the press release stated.

The University has put \$11.6 million into the program in the past five years and plans to spend \$20 million in the next five.

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NEWS & FEATURES

Revamped Career Center to offer students more field-specific advice



LEON SANTHAKUMAR/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The Career Center will help students network with employers.

CAREER, FROM A1
the basic career development skills like building a résumé, basic interviewing, general broad foundational skills that you would need in any particularly career," Wilson said. "Then, if you knew what your career interests were, you could be a part of various career academies and those career academies would give you a lay of the land, so basic information on that particular career path and then they would help prepare you for your internships and networking activities so that when you are ready to job search or apply to graduate school, you would be able to have not only the best preparation. Through your relationships with alumni and faculty and employers you would have a network you could rely on."

The Career Center is implementing a model with core employers.

"We are looking at employers who students want to work for and employers who want our students...

So we're looking at really focusing on deepening the relationships with those employers so that we can understand the opportunities that our students can provide them and the talent pool that exists here at Johns Hopkins," Wilson said. "We are also focusing on the local partnerships, specifically the Baltimore market, and we've had really good success."

The center has also started a student advisory committee to get more input from students on their services. Junior Liam Haviv, who serves on the committee, had high hopes for the coming changes.

"Administrators, namely Dean Wilson, spent a lot of time looking critically at what our deficiencies are. They saw that the Career Center is incredibly successful for the students that they reach... but it only reaches 30 percent of the student body. Thus, they needed a more comprehensive and expansive way of reaching the entire student body and better prepar-

ing everyone for success," Haviv wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "We are analyzing their models, looking where we can improve on them, mold it to Hopkins."

This change has brought about significant staff turnover to perform the center's new functions. Monica Butta, director of employer and market development, explained these changes in an email to *The News-Letter*.

"Our team now consists of four full-time career coaches and one part-time coach, three employer engagement specialists and one internship specialist and an operations team to support events and IT infrastructure," Butta wrote. "The team has a good mix of industry experience and career services experience."

Dean Wilson spoke of his excitement for Garner's expertise with career academies.

"The most exciting piece of that hiring is the hiring of our new executive director, Anne Garner from George Mason University. She was the associate director there and she's worked at a couple of different universities and career services as well as a decade of working in the HR division of the CIA," Wilson said. "So the one piece of this that I'm most excited about is that George Mason has a similar career communities model to what we are trying to transition to at Hopkins so her experience in helping George Mason transition is something we are going to rely upon

here."

Despite these changes, some students like senior Amelia Gavurin, remain unsatisfied with the Center's services.

"They essentially offer nice options for people who want consulting or engineering jobs and then any students who are any bit creative are left with City Year [a national service organization]," she said. "It isn't even their options that are bad, they just don't offer any resources for people to find what jobs out there exist! As a Writing Seminars major, I had to do a ton of research, on top of school work and my extracurriculars to find positions that are actually not writing positions that I would still qualify for."

Senior Agastya Mondal agreed that the Center caters to a small number of professions.

"I think they're just misallocating resources in a way that ultimately doesn't help students. They focus a lot on internal restructuring and services, but they should be focusing on industry connections in my opinion," Mondal wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "I think we're elite [enough] of an institution to have better connections with companies, but we really don't. It's getting better but realistically a lot of BMEs go into consulting because the connections just aren't there into biotech/med devices companies."

The Career Center addressed this discontent and encouraged current seniors to reach out more

and take advantage of the Center's services.

"To students who are feeling a certain level of discontent, I encourage them... to communicate what they feel like they need from the career center," Wilson said. "We welcome that two-way communication and we are constantly refining how we offer those basic services. I think the additional capacity of our staff have cut down on wait-times and has allowed us

to provide more proactive services to students."

Butta also wrote of the Center's efforts to assist seniors in finding jobs.

"Seniors were given priority appointments with career coaches until March 1," she wrote. "Additionally, we have been regularly communicating employment opportunities directly to seniors, through Handshake emails and through announcements."

Seniors react to Lee as commencement speaker

LEE, FROM A1

music videos for artists like Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder and Eminem.

Seniors Nadine Abdullat and Jackie Choi appreciate his relevance to issues that are defining American culture.

"I'm really excited for Spike Lee to come," Abdullat wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "I feel like the board really took into account what's happening in the news and around campus to bring a speaker that will be able to speak to it."

Choi highlighted how Lee's appearance ties into the situation in Baltimore.

"We're at a point at Hopkins, in Baltimore, and in the national atmosphere where race relations are coming to a head," Choi wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "While I think

Hopkins is far from fixing race relations and all of the issues surrounding racism, sexism, etc., I think it's really cool that they've called in a director/activist who's done so much to challenge the way race and prejudice have affected American society."

Few Hopkins students go into film after graduation, and senior Hope Dancy said that she was hoping the commencement speaker would be more relevant to her pursuits.

"Not a lot of people really do film, so it would have been cool to maybe have someone who's out of D.C. who might have something that's a little more relevant to what we're doing," she said. "But I also understand that he is a big deal, and it's really cool that we got him."

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Meagan Peoples
New in Town

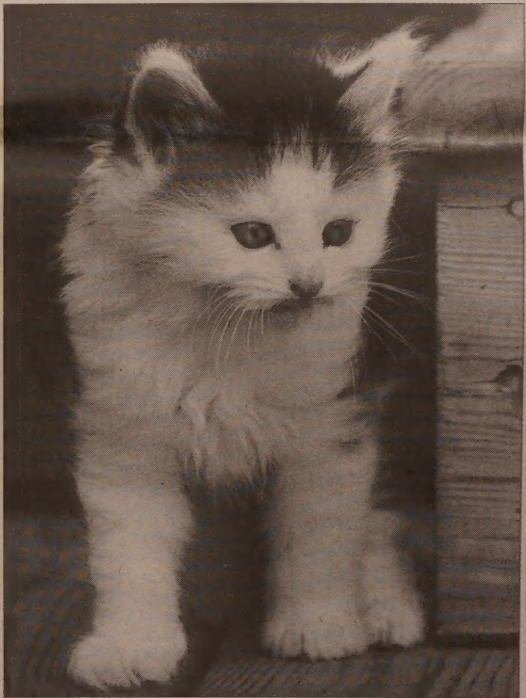
Vacations are truly a blessing. I think we've all come to realize that in the past few days. It's the rest we've earned after spending 12 hours a day staring at a book in the hopes that some of the information will stick. So we reward ourselves for our hard work by spending 12 hours a day staring at a TV screen trying to rid ourselves of everything stuck in our heads. In spite of what movies have tried to tell me over the years, spring break doesn't really feel like some reckless adventure at the end of which I somehow learn that the only real way to be cool is to have friends who care about you or something (I never watch all the way through). Instead it's more of a war of attrition between the part of me that knows I should be doing

homework and the part of me that really wants to watch one more episode of *House of Cards*. Though whether you're out there carpe diem-ing or binge-watching Netflix, I suspect break still ends the same way for everyone: With an intense feeling of panic as you realize that you haven't done any of the stuff you told yourself you would and that you have six midterms and a paper due next week (don't know who thought that was a good idea). Or maybe that experience is unique to me. In that case please excuse me because I have some crying I need to do.

Spring break has been a much-needed and extremely helpful break for me. I don't know about other people but by the time it rolled around I was just a b o u t ready for a vacation. Something about the never-ending rain of stress that is midterm season at Hopkins had me ready for a solid week where I only woke up to eat and catch the end of a *Gilmore Girls* rerun.

I know my mother has a few things to say about how I've chosen to spend my precious time off. Mostly "Have you moved yet today?" or "When was the last time

you showered?" (Mothers, am I right?) But at the end of the day taking the time to do nothing is an important part of staying sane. Though every friend of my parents has insisted on reminding me that "College is going to be the easiest time of your life," it is an extraordinarily stressful experience (which I suppose doesn't bode well for my future). I think the biggest factor is that you never really get a day off. However if you have a job you are going to have days where you won't need to go into work or



OLE MARTIN BJØRNLI GÜNTHER/CC BY-NC 2.0
I feel no shame when I am audibly overwhelmed by cute kittens.

have vacation time which you can take off. Students don't get that flexibility.

I am very rarely able to sit back and relax on a weekend, comfortable knowing that I have nothing to do. No, when I watch Netflix I am not simply rewarding myself for completing homework or finishing an essay. I am dancing with the devil as I attempt to set the record for how little sleep a person can function on before a mid-term (which is hard because my current record is none).

As students we don't get time off. If I'm not doing work then I'm certainly thinking about all the work I should be doing. If I decide to be lazy then I am plagued by the ghosts of all the things I could have accomplished instead of Googling cat pictures for an hour. This break is finally a chance to lean back and do absolutely nothing and to feel no shame as I am audibly overwhelmed by the fluffy cuteness of internet kittens. We all deserve a break every once in a while even if we use it for nothing more productive than increasing Netflix's profit margins. Now if only I could get my mother to understand this, I would never have to leave the couch again.

College as the best time of your life



EM/CC BY-NC-ND 2.0
For me, college is your first snowstorm and wearing a coat in March.



Alexis Sears
Fight Me

I couldn't have been more excited when I left for college. I watched *Animal House* countless times, raided the internet for Hopkins apparel and pestered my mom to tell me stories about her own college experience. After all, these were going to be the best years of my life right?

I really do love Hopkins. I love my classes and professors. I've made lifelong friendships and have had a ton of fun. But there's a lot about college that you don't see in the movies.

College is work. College is pulling multiple all-nighters a week. It's skipping one class to study for another. Sometimes college is giving your all and still being unhappy with the result. College is about navigating tricky social situations and living in cramped dorms with your peers. It's communal bathrooms. It's learning how to budget time and money and making mistakes along the way. For me (and my fellow

West Coasters) college is your first snowstorm and wearing a thick coat in the middle of March.

College has probably been the best time of my life so far, but is this the most fun I'm ever going to have? I don't think so. I honestly have no idea why this idea has become so popular, so I decided to ask my friends what they thought.

"I think college is supposed to be the best time of your life because it's when you're the prettiest," said one.

"You get to live on your own but don't have to pay taxes yet," said another.

"Your only job is to study. You aren't working a dead-end job."

And yes all these things are true, but who decided that college is going to be the best time of every single person's life? We have to stop perpetuating this notion because it just leads to disappointment and heartache. I've received phone calls from younger friends asking me what's wrong with them because they aren't enjoying college as much as they thought they would.

Here's the deal: Everyone is on a different timeline. Personally I expect that I'll relish my mid 20s or early 30s more than I will college. I won't have to worry about grades. I won't be kicked out of a liquor store or bar because my ID is fake. I'll be young, but I won't be as clueless about how to be an adult as I am now.

If it turns out that my mid 20s or early 30s aren't the best, maybe my late 30s will be. Maybe I'll love marriage and raising a child. Or maybe I'll be happiest in my late 50s when my kids are in college and I can finally try photography or scuba diving.

Or maybe my 70s will be the best. It's possible that I'll be the world's best grandmother — spoiling my grandkids, baking, tending the garden or doing whatever it is grandparents do. You get the idea.

If college turns out to be the greatest time of your life then great! However I hope that the best years of my life aren't over by the time I'm 21. Instead of panicking because your "best time" doesn't match with someone else's, see where life takes you. I think that no matter where we are in life we should believe that the best is yet to come.

What's the Word? This Week on Yik Yak

Do you think it's possible to train a hedgehog to walk up an down the table with cubes of cheese on it's spikes? I'm giving a dinner party.

19

18 HOURS 3 REPLIES SHARE

I have a logic fetish and now I can't stop coming to conclusions

48

11 HOURS 1 REPLY SHARE

Am I the only one who always changes the "date accessed" to several days earlier when citing my sources because I subconsciously don't want teachers to know I'm procrastinating

66

20 HOURS 6 REPLIES SHARE

My roommate is sleeping under his bed because I yelled at him

43

9 HOURS 1 REPLY SHARE

HIP HOP

BUT ALSO observations, lists, thoughts, feelings, missed connections, haikus, confessions, furtive glances and of course, sex.

How I realized who my father really is



Lily Kairis
Un-Poetic Musings

A few months ago I learned that my dad had prostate cancer. It was my mom who told me in a low cautionary tone during a phone call I had assumed would be nothing but mild, peppered with simple life updates and chatter about the latest documentary films and the littlest bit of motherly nagging.

But instead, "We just learned your father has prostate cancer."

I've learned a lot of things from my 19 years of education — from optic nerves to iambic pentameter to a brief biography of Susan B. Anthony. But I can tell you for certain that no one and nothing taught me how to handle this.

But as it turns out I didn't really have to handle it. At least not at first.

For the first few months after this phone call I didn't talk to anybody about my dad's prostate cancer. There was nothing really to say. "My dad has cancer, but according to my mom it's not a big deal, and he's being treated, and he'll be totally fine." What was the point of that?

I mean evidently it wasn't a big deal. It was such a non-big-deal that my dad didn't even know that I knew at first. My mom had informed my older brother and me without my dad's permission, neglecting his declaration of "okay-ness" and his age-old line: "I don't want them to worry for no reason."

This was a classic My Dad thing — not wanting his kids to worry about him. Wanting to be tough for our sake. This self-

less fighter spirit is what makes my dad incredible. But it took until his prostate cancer really hit for me to truly see that.

A few weeks after the news, my dad finally confessed his cancer to my brother and me over dinner. ("But don't sweat it really. You kids have more important things to worry about. And you know me — I'll be back on the squash court within three days.") He told me he'd be in Hopkins for the surgery ("... and hey let's go out to brunch the Saturday after! And then all head home together for the holidays!"). A few weeks later I got a call. I was in Brody.

"Hello?"

"Lil?"

It was my mom who had been texting me that morning with updates on how dad was doing. But this time there were no emojis in her voice and no promises of brunch. She sounded wrecked.

"Would you mind coming to the hospital? Please."

Leaving my finals studying behind, I took an Uber to the Med Campus. My mind was spinning — before I left, two of my best friends who were studying with me had watched me tear up as I talked my mom through her anxiety over the phone. I hadn't been ready for this.

When I walked into the hospital my mom hugged me longer than she ever had. That day I kept her company, listening to her recount the days leading up to the surgery as she and my dad explored Baltimore and sharing fond jokes about his insane ability to turn every random person into a friend (including every nurse apparently).

I didn't see my dad that day because the nurses insisted he was being moved around too much from room to room and test to test. Somehow by the end I felt like I'd helped. I felt drained, scared and slightly like reality was banging me over the head



SEKIHANI/CC BY-NC 2.0

Family has always been the most important thing for my father.

with a screwdriver. But in a weird, bittersweet way, when my dad sent me a text, "Out of surgery. Doin okay," I felt okay too.

The Saturday after the surgery (also the first day of winter break) my mom picked me up at 8 a.m. and rushed me off to the hospital. It was the first day I saw my dad. He was groggy but smiling. "Hey," he'd said. "Lilykins! You excited for break?"

It was a feat of human nature that he could be feeling 12 shades of awful but still have the humility to put the attention on his daughter instead of himself.

We talked about finals and sorority life and the plays I'd written, and for the first time I noticed how compassionate my dad really was. He's trying to make me feel comfortable, I thought. Even now he's trying to be a dad.

After that day though, things for my dad got worse — he'd come out of surgery weaker than the doctors expected and his hemoglobin was dangerously low. They made him stay an extra night hoping he'd perk up with food, but then on the second night he fainted while trying to walk to the bathroom. They made him stay four days longer than any of us had expected.

On the second day my mom had to drive home to Delaware for clients who she'd already resched-

uled. So I stayed alone, took the extra bedroom at my aunt and uncle's house in Baltimore and visited my dad every morning until he was ready to leave.

I'm not going to lie, this was one of strangest experiences of my life. I drove to the hospital, greeted the nurses at the visitor's center, walked into my dad's room in the cancer wing and didn't feel like a kid anymore.

But then... then my dad saw me, his face lit up like a Christmas tree and he offered me a chair. He'd tell me an anecdote about the nurse who looked like my best friend from high school or share an article about Shonda Rhimes that had made him think of me and I felt — gosh. I felt like I was cared for like a kid, in the very best way.

I didn't really know what I was trying to say with this article or why I wanted to write it in the first place and share a piece of my life that was so vulnerable and so terrifying. But I needed to write it because of how much this all meant to me, how much it opened my eyes to something I took so much for granted before.

I guess what I'm trying to say is: It's funny how you can live your whole life with someone and never truly see them for who they are and all that they do.

But then suddenly, you do.

A mug muffin for any dietary needs



Juliana Veracka
Dorm Diets

You've probably heard of mug cookies, cakes and muffins. It's sort of a lifesaver for a college student. Baked goods that you can microwave? Ingenious. But the method of baking food in a mug is not only for sweet treats — there are healthy alternatives to the baked goods you crave that are just as simple to make! Today I'm going to show you the mug muffin recipe that my family uses. It originated from one of Cassey Ho's recipes.

For those of you who don't know, Cassey Ho is an online Pilates instructor who got her start on YouTube and has her own website with multitudes of free exercise videos. She also has healthy reci-

pes that are great for anyone looking to clean up their diet! If you want to see the original mug muffin recipe — along with many others — you can check it out at www.blogilates.com.

To make a mug muffin, all you need is a mug, a bowl or anything microwaveable, really. Please note that the version of the recipe that my family uses is gluten- and dairy-free but not nut-free. Modifications are very easy to make depending on your needs.

This recipe is super simple and really flexible. Feel free to make any modifications that you want. Add some cocoa powder for a change or use almond extract instead of vanilla. If you don't have an issue with gluten, you can try using wheat flour. You can play around with all different kinds of flours if you want. Add some chocolate chips for a sweeter dessert alternative (dairy-free dark chocolate or semisweet chips are my go-to). There's no single correct way to go about this. Enjoy!

Mug Muffins

Ingredients:

- Half a mashed banana or a mashed, cooked sweet potato
- One egg
- Vanilla extract (be careful — some vanilla extracts have gluten in them!)
- Protein powder (we use pea protein but whey protein will

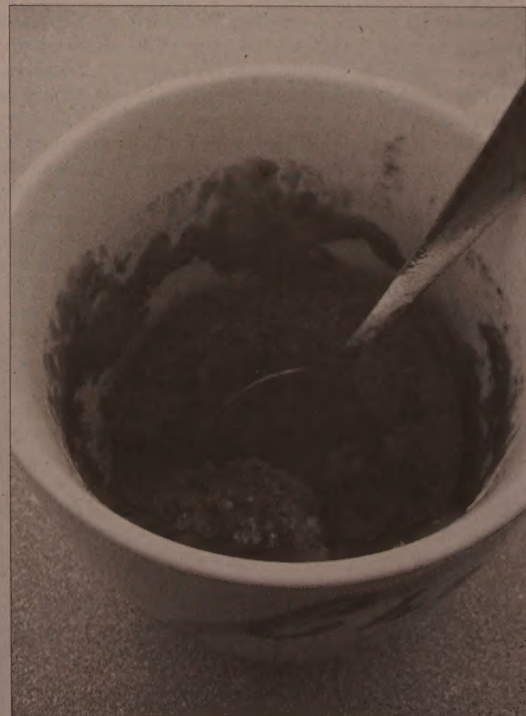
work too)

- Almond flour, coconut flour or any combination of the two
- Cinnamon
- Salt (optional)
- Crushed nuts (optional)
- You can add coconut or almond milk if necessary (or dairy milk if you wish)

Directions:

You'll want to mix the wet ingredients (including the mashed banana or sweet potato) first. Then add the dry ingredients and mix well. We usually don't measure the dry ingredients. The more you make this recipe, the more you get a feel for how much flour or cinnamon you prefer. Sometimes you'll feel like leaving out the protein powder. Sometimes you'll want to leave out the flour. It all depends.

After everything's all mixed, put your creation in the microwave for about three minutes. Take it out, let it cool and enjoy straight out of the mug. (Or you can take it out of the mug after it's cooled.) If you make it in a bowl or some other container that allows it to be somewhat flat then you can even put it in a toaster. It goes well with a little coconut oil on top.



ABC OPEN RIVERLAND/CC BY 2.0

Add some cocoa powder to give your mug muffin a chocolate twist.

How to push back laundry day as far as possible

1. Wear your clothes more than once. Maybe that is a fashion faux pas but you can pull it off without letting anyone in on it. Wearing the same pants three days in a row is totally fine as long as you have a different shirt on.

2. Buy a lot of underwear. There is absolutely no situation in which you should not change your underwear. Buy more so you always have a clean pair.

3. Take frequent showers. If you're clean, then your clothes won't get as dirty. Probably. Because science.

4. Use Febreze instead of perfume or cologne. Occasional walks through a mist of fabric freshener will keep your clothes smelling like you've just washed them. This list is not sponsored by Febreze.

5. Never leave your room. If you don't leave, you can stay in pajamas all day. That's one less outfit to wash.

6. Conveniently misplace all your quarters. Oops! Now you can't do laundry. Because you can't pay for it. So you'll just have to do it later. Like tomorrow. Or next week.

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NEWS-LETTER

Editorials

Manage your expectations for the best HelWell experience

The Student Health and Wellness Center, the University clinic located on 31st Street, is often the recipient of criticism from the student body, and it seems like everyone has a friend with a horror story about HelWell. Although the center is flawed, it does serve its stated purpose. HelWell would greatly benefit from a few changes, but it does not deserve the harsh reputation it has garnered.

College is a unique time for students and how they interact with healthcare. Many college students do not have a primary care physician, and even those who do have one (beyond their pediatrician) are often far away from home and thus cannot access their physician. This situation puts students in limbo — they don't know where to go when they require medical attention, and they don't know what to expect.

With the clinic nearby and the renowned reputation of Hopkins medicine omnipresent, students turn to HelWell for the majority of their healthcare needs. HelWell is intended as a primary care service for non-emergencies, but, as Director Alain Joffe notes, students often treat HelWell as their all-purpose hospital when in reality, it is simply a doctor's office. Students should recognize that the Student Health and Wellness Center serves a specific purpose and is not capable nor intended to serve all of their healthcare and medicinal needs, and as in other clinics, it's unreasonable to expect the doctors to provide an instant cure. Although less convenient and not specifically catered toward University students, MedStar Union Memorial Hospital on N. Calvert Street is an extremely accessible resource to be used for serious medical needs and emergency situations. Additionally, the Johns Hopkins Hospital located in East Baltimore provides another well-equipped resource for students' urgent medical needs.

Moreover, students should utilize HelWell's referral system, even if it seems like extra effort to spend the time to see another doctor. HelWell offers personalized referrals when students require specialists or care that HelWell cannot provide; this is extremely useful for students new to Baltimore who are unfamiliar with the doctors and specialists around campus. Many medical practices do not accept new patients without a referral, so students should take advantage of this system when they need serious care. The clinic has an insurance/referral coordinator dedicating to guiding students through the process.

Although students do need to recognize HelWell's true purpose and limitations and thus manage their expectations of the clinic, HelWell should acknowledge the fact that University students are in an unfamiliar position in which they have to seek out their own healthcare services. A patient's relationship with their primary care physician is a crucial aspect of their healthcare experience. Students' transition from a familiar doctor whom they trust to a new temporary clinician is often uncomfortable and not ideal, even if it's only for a few years. HelWell can and should make small changes to help aid this transition, such as enacting a policy in which students consistently meet with the same doctor following their first visit, with an option of switching if the patient requests. This minor change could help students to build relationships with the doctors at HelWell and consequently feel more comfortable at the clinic.

Although HelWell is imperfect, it does a formidable job at its purpose of serving as a student clinic. If students manage their expectations, and HelWell recognizes students' situations and adjusts accordingly, the two will better be able to interact on campus.

Building a better Career Center

The Career Center recently announced the appointment of Anne Garner as the new director, to start in May. Staff changes inevitably lead to differences in operation, the Editorial Board hopes that with this new leadership comes some much-needed improvements to the Career Center.

The Career Center lacks a strong alumni network — or if it has one, it is not utilizing it to the best of its ability. Such a network is critical in students' searches for internships and full-time employment following graduation, and the Center should work with the Alumni Association to connect students of all years to institutions with Hopkins grads. Additionally, the Career Center lacks data on Hopkins' students post-grad plans. It would be extremely beneficial for current students to have numbers on students who have gone into certain fields, to certain employers, and who have explored alternatives to typical employment. Pre-med students, for example, receive this sort of data from the Pre-Professional Advising Office regarding gap years, and all students would similarly benefit. Although the collection of this data would necessitate some effort, it would not be overwhelming; students graduating from Hopkins could simply fill out a survey before leaving campus asking them about their next plans.

Another issue with the Career Center is its emphasis on juniors and seniors looking for employment. The Career Center should have materials for students at all points in their time at the University; with the job market becoming increasingly competitive, students seek internships and opportunities starting at a younger age. This tailored information and checklists for each year would not only be helpful for younger students seeking employment but also allow them to follow some sort of path toward graduation. This guided structure, similar to that which currently exists in academic advising, would better prepare students for their inevitable search for full-time jobs after graduating by familiarizing themselves with the Career Center and its resources as well as illustrating a rough plan for students' career path.

In addition to this year-specific information, the Career Center should serve more of the role of a career counselor or

coach for underclassmen. Students arriving at the University are often lost and overwhelmed by the job search, and the Career Center should have staff to provide guidance for students who are unsure of their career interests and intentions.

With this new attention on underclassmen should come a larger emphasis on students obtaining internships, especially in the city of Baltimore. The University publicly prides itself in connecting and giving back to Baltimore City, but currently does not have strong employment ties between its students and the city. Students spend at least nine months out of the year in Baltimore, and many seek part-time internships in addition to their coursework. Moreover, many students stay in Baltimore over summers to take classes, conduct research, intern or a combination. Some dorm buildings have 11-month leases, which monetarily incentivizes students to stay around campus for the summer following that living situation. Due to this, the Career Center should strengthen its network of Baltimore internships for both semesters and the summer. There are a plethora of opportunities and businesses in Baltimore, but students lack the knowledge of internship possibilities that surround them.

Another issue with the Career Center is its current lack of synergy with other relevant advising departments on campus. The pre-professional advising, academic advising and major advising resources should be better connected with the Career Center as they are all extremely interconnected in intention and practice. The current system provides almost no crossover, essentially leaving students to bounce among the different offices and advisors in order to advance their career interests. These departments would become much more efficient by committing to open communication and cooperation, and the Career Center would improve its utility to students in fields other than tech and consulting.

The University is bursting with ambitious students eager to kickstart their careers, and the Career Center should reflect and encourage this drive. The new director has an opportunity to create and implement a new vision for the institution, and the Editorial Board hopes that she will bring a fresh and discerning outlook.

Editor's Note: Editor-in-Chief Samhita Ilango was not a member of the Editorial Board this week.

The Editorial Board that writes the editorials consists of the Editors-in-Chief, Managing Editors, Opinions Editor, and an editor-at-large on rotation from the remain editors (excluding the News & Features Editors).

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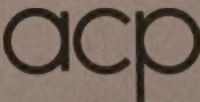
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OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

From Adam LaRoche, a lesson on balance

BY JAHAN MIRCHANDANI

For many Americans, “take your child to work day” is an annual occurrence where children accompany their parents to their job. Typically the glamour of this annual day wears off once these children become teenagers, and teachers do not want their students missing an entire day’s worth of classes. The thought of having children roaming the workplace several times a month seems unimaginable, given that it would distract not only their parents, but co-workers as well.

There are some exceptions to these norms however, since professional athletes frequently have their children attend their games and then stick around after in the locker room. These professional athletes are consistently on the road traveling and therefore take advantage of any valuable time available to spend with their children. What happens, however, when an employer decides to mandate that a specific employee cannot have their child around the workplace anymore? Does that mean the employee must now decide which is more important, their job or their child?

This dilemma resembles daily decisions that college students make: What would you prefer to do versus what you should do. Study for that midterm on Monday or take some time to enjoy the weekend? In both cases, there typically is a balance that can be reached, which does not involve an ultimatum of choosing one over the other.

Last week, professional athlete Adam LaRoche announced that he was retiring from Major League Baseball. Under contract to earn \$13 million this year alone, the unexpected announcement opened eyes nationwide. After all, it was not as if the 34-year-old LaRoche were too old to continue playing. Fans anxiously anticipated a follow-up story revealing his reasoning for giving up such an exorbitant amount of money. Rumors started spreading that LaRoche was at odds with management over work policy, something that resonates with employees globally, but does not necessarily justify quitting abruptly. Ultimately LaRoche announced his rationale: He was resigning because the Vice President of the Chicago White Sox organization (his employer/team) told him that his son was not permitted in the clubhouse during the upcoming season. LaRoche chose his family, his responsibilities as a father and his personal life over his work life, a decision that was publicly commended and met with admiration and respect by many (along with a trending hashtag #FamilyFirst on Twitter).

This announcement also sparked outrage toward the Chicago White Sox leadership, with some of LaRoche’s old teammates publicizing their disapproval of such a directive. What made matters worse was that this rule applied only to LaRoche’s son, Drake, and not to the children of any other member of the team. A consequential spotlight was suddenly placed on the Chicago White Sox organization, with their explanation potentially having the significance to set a precedent among professional sports nationwide. As is true to every story, details from the other side eventually emerged. Suddenly White Sox Vice President Kenny Williams did not come off as the total jerk that many portrayed him as. This situation became messy and extremely controversial.

In justifying the organization’s decision, Williams stated that several of LaRoche’s co-workers/teammates found Drake to be a distraction because he was around so often.

When asked how often, it surfaced that LaRoche’s son was in the workplace a whopping 120 days of the year. Given the fact that Drake is 14 years old, concerns regarding his commitment to school, desire to make friends his own age and general uncomfortableness being around grown men being paid to entertain became relevant.

With both sides to the story out, it became understandable to see why the White Sox approached LaRoche to confront him about this unhealthy situation. Having a balance between your personal life and work is one thing, but here it appears that LaRoche abused his contractual rights and now is making other athletes (and common Americans) look bad for not putting #FamilyFirst. After all, can you imagine if every single player brought his teenage son to work 140 times a year? That’s not a balance. Instead it’s similar to spending the entire weekend in the Inner Harbor, Federal Hill and Hampden and then performing below average on that test on Monday (similar to LaRoche performing below Major League average last year with his .207 batting average).

On Twitter, LaRoche wrote that he was forced to make a decision: “Do I choose my teammates and my career? Or do I choose my family?” It appears that LaRoche was fortunate to enjoy the ultimate balance of having both his family and his career for the past few years. Accustomed to being allowed to have his son join him at work so often, all LaRoche would have had to do was tilt the balance more toward his career by requesting that Drake still be welcome in the locker room, albeit at a scaled back frequency. Instead, LaRoche



KEITH ALLISON VIA FLIKR/CC-BY-SA 2.0

chose against compromising and balancing, choosing to walk away from the game he loves for the family he loves, a decision that sparked an opinion among other athletes, common American workers and college students alike.

With midterms upon us, it is essential for our own mental and physical health to have a balance between work and life. This “balance” includes finding time to study and get your work done while also finding leisure time in the gym, dining halls, fraternity houses or downtown. While I may not agree with LaRoche’s decision, the circumstances surrounding it do raise the importance of compromising between what we enjoy and what we must do to fulfill commitments and succeed. Students at Hopkins (and other institutions) often can feel moments of being overwhelmed or stressed. Our desire and determination to do well inside the classroom, become involved in student organizations, hold leadership positions, intern/do research, perform community service and impress our peers absolutely take a toll on our physical and mental health. We can learn from LaRoche and remind ourselves that performing under pressure is not worth performing without the things you love.

Jahan Mirchandani is the Coordinator for Union Programming in the Office of Student Leadership and Involvement.

Students: Your vote counts in more ways than one

BY GILLIAN LELCHUK

It feels like no one believes their vote actually counts. If someone lives in a blue state and votes red, the candidate they want to win doesn’t have a chance, and if someone lives in a blue state and votes blue, why should it matter if they join the hoards of people all voting for the same candidate?

To an extent, that sort of thinking is true. In a presidential election, most states are pretty much predetermined as to whether the electoral votes are going Democrat or Republican. Even in a swing state, the result often doesn’t come as a surprise.

However, in every election there is so much more at stake. In addition to presidential candidates and members of Congress, we also vote for local politicians, bills and propositions that will likely have more effect on our daily lives than any choice of president. It might be that Trump is dominating the media, but in the presidential primaries he’s only one item on the ballot.

It’s hard to stay informed about the governments of our home

states when most of us spend three-quarters of the year away from the action, and it’s even harder to be aware of the local politics within county or city lines.

But that’s where your vote really matters — that’s where you can have the biggest impact.

Pay attention to who is running for school board. The kids are the future, right? So everyone should take an interest in who controls what they learn.

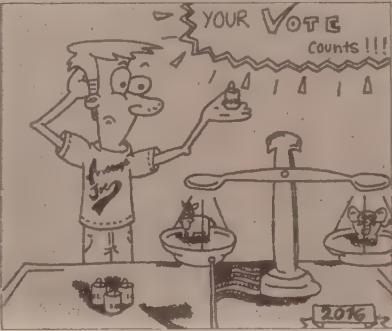
Pay attention to state senate elections and city council elections. Those are the people in charge of parks, infrastructure and local taxes.

With all that in mind, pay attention to the bigger game because your vote will matter in the

presidential primary, and it will matter in the general election. According to the United States Election Project and data gathered by the Census Bureau, voters ages 18 to 29 have consistently been the least likely age bracket to turn out to vote, as measured since 1984. If presidential elections had a larger turnout of young voters, that could drastically change the results.

According to the Pew Research Center, about two-thirds of young voters identify as or lean Democrat. If you fall into this category, your vote could make a huge difference against the more conservative baby boomers, who are nearly three times more likely to vote. If you’re among the minority that leans more conservative, your vote matters too. You need to stand up for what you believe in, even if that means going against the grain, and let politicians know that even if you’re a minority in your age group you still deserve to be represented.

Your vote matters. It matters close to home, and it matters nationwide. Take advantage of a political system that gives you a



MEGAN DONNELLY/FOR THE NEWS-LETTER

say in who runs our country. Look up when your home state’s primary is (if it hasn’t happened yet) and register for an absentee ballot if you won’t be home to vote in person.

The deadline to register to vote varies by state, but in most it’s 30 or fewer days before the election. If you want to register with Maryland, you have until April 5 to send in your paperwork or fill out the nifty online registration form for the primary on April 26.

Unless you want every political decision to be made by 65-year-old conservative white people, get out and vote.

Gillian Lelchuk is a sophomore Writing Seminars major from Seal Beach, California.

Common spaces in Hopkins housing need to be reimaged

BY TOMMY KOH

As the freshman class spent Spring Break worrying about what options their housing time slot would permit them, the question of which building is preferable seemed to be at the top of everyone’s mind. The answer is a foregone conclusion for some. Many swear by the newness of the now five-years-old Charles Commons. Some will fight tooth and nail for an apartment unit that allows them to forego a meal plan. Yet others are already assured of their accommodation, having selected the healthy living, substance-free community of Rogers House. As seems to be convention, McCoy remains forgotten, unloved and feared.

Asking which building is preferable isn’t the right question. Instead, we should think broadly about the role of community. The residential system was created and continues to this day to be a platform for student interaction and engagement. Residential halls are the enablers of relations. On this measure, the large but cold and characterless common spaces in Charles Commons seem to fall far short in contrast to the vibrant and warm common

rooms in McCoy that seem to be filled with more laughter. What exactly should we expect and demand from our buildings and communities?

Common spaces facilitate the process of community building. Small alterations can be made to existing spaces to maximize their utility. The common rooms on the Charles Tower side of Charles Commons are huge in relation to the number of residents they serve. However, the six couches, two tables and eight chairs are often empty since residents don’t find them useful — many of these resources are already found in suites or rooms. No wonder the common spaces are always empty.

Yet there is much potential to creatively configure this space in a different way. Imagine if we converted every other Charles Tower common room into a collaborative learning space with movable furniture à la Brody, with whiteboard walls and group workstations. Such a setup will allow residents with similar academic interests to converge around common education goals (and less loftily but still in the same spirit, finishing that week’s assignments) and include students from other communities. Natural leaders

may emerge within the community and help guide others toward greater understanding.

By providing opportunities to identify common interests, we not only strengthen educational outcomes by promoting collaboration but also strengthen the relations between individuals and the community as a whole, providing students a more robust support network.

Also imagine that the remaining common rooms in the Charles Tower are converted into social spaces with beanbags, projectors and dining tables. These resources will empower residents to take a study break by watching a movie or even have a community potluck. Existing programs like movie, nights or study breaks can further leverage these new spaces and better connect to residents’ needs.

Even if students desire them, the existing structure of common spaces hinders planning for such social activities to the point that it is difficult to make arrangements for everyone to go down to the common kitchen or book a theater in a different building.

Common rooms that are ghost towns are not helpful to anyone and reflect a wasteful use of space. Opportunities to

converge and build community are precious and must be cherished. Another possibility may well be to imagine individual suite spaces as an extension of the common spaces. If residents are able to prop open their doors, others in the community will be able to meet and interact with them in their own spaces.

While security might be a concern, this speaks to larger themes of community trust and respect that we shouldn’t be afraid to engage with. After all, with every resident in Charles Commons living in a single, why is there the arbitrary line between individual and the community at the suite door rather than at the room door?

Freshmen who eventually choose to live in Charles Commons should embrace the challenge to re-imagine their common spaces and to advocate for improvements which will benefit the student and residential experience. Residents deserve at least social and study spaces. If nothing is done about common spaces, for the sake of community, freshmen should really just pick McCoy.

Tommy Koh is a sophomore psychology and political science double major from Singapore.

PHOTO ESSAY



Spring has Sprung



By: Leon Santhakumar



THE B SECTION

N-L

YOUR WEEKEND • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • CARTOONS, ETC. • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY • SPORTS

MARCH 24, 2016



Arts & Entertainment

The JHU Film Festival comes to campus March 31 — B3
Zootopia's address of social issues earns it accolades — B4
Two musicians and an artist walk into an interview — B5



Science & Technology

Researchers harvest crops from lunar soil — B7
Peanuts may reduce infants' risk of a peanut allergy — B7
New material may serve as robot skin — B9



Sports

Athlete of the Week: M. Lax player Wilkins Dismuke — B11
Hopkins runners compete at NCAA D-III Championships — B12
March Madness brackets defy logic — B12

YOUR WEEKEND MAR. 24-27

Events in Baltimore this weekend

Thursday

Coincidence (A Poetic Experience) Real News Network, 7 p.m.

Some of the most impactful and well-known local poets have been selected for this event. It's only \$5!

Theory Of Obscurity: A Film About The Residents The Charles Theatre, 9 p.m.

The Residents' music and multimedia work is wild and has always been ahead of its time. This film should provide an interesting perspective on the influential yet mysterious art collective from Louisiana.

Friday

Square Peg Round Hole with guests Metro Gallery, 8 p.m.

Square Peg is an instrumental trio from Philadelphia. They just put out a new record, *Juniper*.

TT The Artist, Hijokaidan and more The Crown, 8 p.m.

This can't-miss event will feature seven acts from Japan and nine from Baltimore. Almost every genre imaginable will be represented, and it's only \$10.

Saturday

The Return of Public Vulgarly Guest Spot at The ReInstitute, 2 p.m.

This "discussion on profanity as a practice, politics, and femininity" will be held in conjunction with the group exhibition *Dirtier Words*.

"Machine in the Garden" opening Springsteen Gallery, 7 p.m.

The two-person exhibition will feature the work of Bea Fremderman and Andrew Laumann.

Kahlon The Crown, 9 p.m.

Kahlon is back for March! Baltimore rapper Abdu Ali has once again curated a night of live music and DJs.

Sunday

What Nerve, Raw Silk and more Terrault Contemporary, 7:30 p.m.

Electronic groups of all sorts (experimental, pop, noise, etc.) from New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore will be playing in Station North for \$5-\$10 (sliding scale).

Tender E.M. X BALTI GURLS The Crown, 8 p.m.

The Crown's monthly reading series will feature the Balti Gurls, a collective of black and brown female-identified artists.



Rapper Antwon riled up the eager crowd in the red room of the Crown on Tuesday night, interacting with fans throughout his set. COURTESY OF MIA CAPOBIANCO

By MIA CAPOBIANCO
Your Weekend Editor

Thanks to the guidance of *News-Letter* Arts & Entertainment Editor Kinney, I got to the Crown at the perfect time last Tuesday night. It was fairly full but not too crowded for me to secure a spot directly in front of the stage. I thought it would be much more crowded considering the show was originally scheduled to be at U Street Music Hall in D.C. but was cancelled only four days before the scheduled date. The Crown jumped in to host the rappers now performing for half the price (\$10 versus the original \$20) at a venue with less than half the capacity.

Anyway my timing was impeccable because Eulogy took the stage seconds after I entered. His music is as hard as it gets and was a perfect introduction to the evening. The producers he works with, like KENNY99, create glitchy or minimal, sometimes punk

or Baltimore-club-influenced, experimental electronic tracks over which Eulogy sings, raps, shouts or generally makes noise, often with one or more distortions.

His work covers fairly wide ground and translates well in a live setting. I highly recommend checking out his SoundCloud (soundcloud.com/eulogy), which also lists upcoming shows.

After Eulogy's set the two headliners took the stage — first Antwon then Wiki. Most contemporary rap fans are familiar with the work of Ratking, a hip hop group from New York. Wiki is a rapper/producer with the collective and works alongside Hak and Sporting Life. The group's first album (they also have two EPs) *So It Goes* was released about two years ago. Since then Wiki has released a solo EP titled *Lil Me* as well as a number of remixes/singles and has appeared on such tracks as "AM // Radio" on Earl Sweatshirt's *I Don't Like*

Shit, I Don't Go Outside in 2015. He has collaborated with Skepta and Antwon among others. Needless to say, he is well-connected.

Antwon is currently based in San Jose but played in several bands before focusing his attention on hip hop. He has put out a lot of music in the last five or six years including mixtapes, singles and a studio album titled *Heavy Hearted in Doldrums* in 2014.

Although I was more familiar with Wiki's work, I actually found myself more engaged with Antwon's set. He played crowd favorites such as "Dying in the Pussy" and "Sitting in Hell" between tracks from his 2014 album. He interacted with the crowd throughout the set with short quips and by briefly performing within the audience. His energy was explosive, and the crowd caught on; By the time he left the stage, all of us in the front had shoved one another around and nodded

(read: banged) like bobble heads.

Wiki's set wasn't quite as rowdy, but he was equally skillful in command of stage and mic. He started with "Living With My Moms" and progressed through *Lil Me* as the crowd listened with intent. I think a lot of fanboys were present (myself included to be honest) and with good reason: If you haven't checked out *Lil Me* yet, you should.

I was kind of confused as to why neither rapper accompanied the other on stage at any point considering they are both featured on each other's most recent projects. I would've loved to hear them go in together on "Patience" or "Metronome." Still I was more than satisfied with each artist's performance on Tuesday. Each performer showed skill in transferring their work to the stage. Make sure to check out Hak, Eulogy and other great artists at the Windup Space on April 24. It's only \$5 (!) with a college ID.

Music, volunteering and the joys of spring

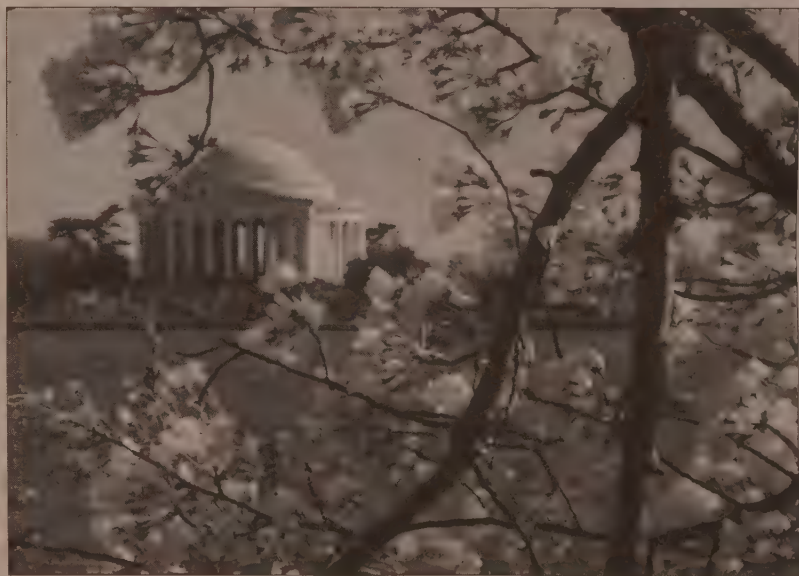
By VERONICA REARDON
Your Weekend Columnist

Okay so the title is a little dramatic, what with the joys of spring and all that, but Spring Fair is coming up, nice flowers everywhere, and the air won't hurt your face anymore. Speaking of nice flowers, my chosen weekend activity (if I did not have to stay on campus to run the Hopkins bouldering competition) would be to go to D.C. for the cherry blossoms.

For those of you who like to go to actual events — I personally was planning on heading to D.C. just to wander around, look at flowers and maybe eat things — there is in fact a Cherry Blossom Festival. It began on March 20 and will continue until April 17. It includes a kite festival, a parade, fireworks, a Japanese street festival and many other events. For those who are of age, there will be a Cherry Blossom Wine and Beer Festival both this weekend on Saturday and on April 9. Their web page in case you were curious calls it "Drink the District," which is kind of almost clever.

Both of these festivals will get you off campus and hopefully out in some nice spring weather!

This Thursday, the Honey Dewdrops will be playing a little closer to home in Metro Gallery. A former traveling band, they've settled in Balti-



Cherry blossoms are beautiful at any stage, but right now they are very close to this year's peak bloom. CLIFF VIA FLICKR/CC-BY-2.0

more. They are a husband and wife duo and play folksy or bluegrass/old time music. I meant to see them last year and never did! They're supposed to be quite good. I believe admission to the show is \$10 and you must be 18 to attend.

Next Friday will also be the first Friday of the month, which means the Four Hour Day Lutherie will be having a concert. They are an instrument building shop that also holds events; you can go build your own guitar or banjo or what have you there, which is very cool. Their First Friday concerts are free so if you're short on cash it's a great option for you! The Lutherie is near Morgan State University.

Finally, as many of you know The Book Thing burned down a couple weeks ago. The Book Thing is a community resource that collects and gives away books. Ordinarily you can show up and take whichever books you want at no charge. Now though, they need help.

They've been fundraising and asking for volunteers, so one thing you could do with your weekend is head to The Book Thing and help them out! They need people on Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to continue the cleanup. The Book Thing was (and hopefully will be once it has a new location) in Waverly, which is very close

to campus. It's also where the farmer's market is. You won't have to travel far to volunteer, and you'll be helping a very worthy cause. You might also end up with some free things as they have been giving away what they had in the old building. If you can't donate your time, you can also donate your money to helping them rebuild! There's a button on their website for it. They also had a fundraiser this past week and may have more coming up, so be on the lookout for those.

No matter what you do with your weekend, make sure you get off campus at least once one of these days — especially now that walking places is no longer unpleasant!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Hopkins Film Festival expands its slate

By **WILL KIRSCH**
Staff Writer

March 31 will mark the beginning of the 20th annual Johns Hopkins Film Festival. The festival is curated by the Hopkins Film Society (HFS) and will feature three screenings of feature films and a collection of independent exhibitions.

Showings will be spread across three days and set at both the Homewood Campus and the new JHU-MICA Film Centre on North Avenue.

The festival will commence with a showing of '70s dark comedy *Harold and Maude* at Shriver Hall. On April 1, the festival's second day, presenters will move to the Film Centre to speak about their love for the art of film.

According to the HFS co-director Julia Gunnison, the series of presentations is a new element that will feature Baltimore artists such as Skizz Cyzyk, Jimmy Joe Roche and Becca Morin, all of whom have ties to film. These talks will be followed by a release party for the HFS zine, *WAVEWAVE*, which is published two to three times a year.

The following day

begins with screenings from the Baltimore Student Filmmaker Program (BSFP). The BSFP is an HFS-led program with films made by University students and one Baltimore high school student.

Gunnison commented on the inclusion of the BSFP productions.

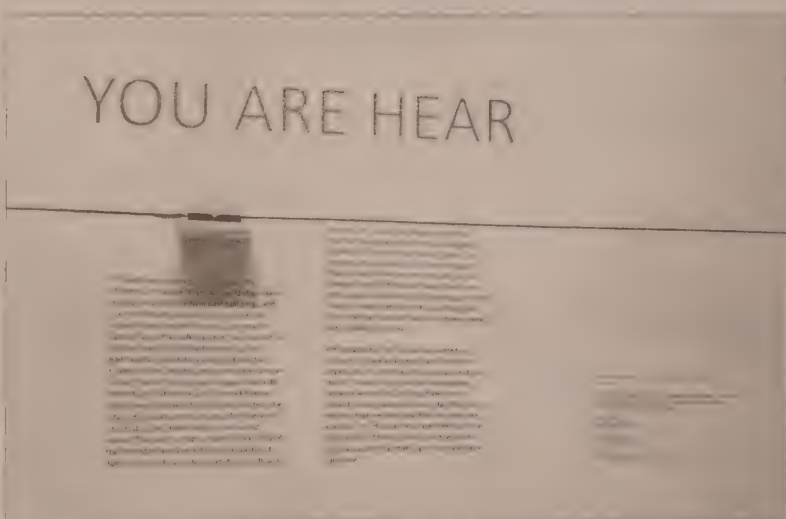
"That program takes place at 2:30 p.m. on April 2 and showcases the work of student filmmakers in Baltimore. This program includes many different kinds of films, which makes it very dynamic and interesting; We're very excited for it," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

After the presentations by the Filmmaker Program, the documentary shorts selected by the society will be shown. At the end of the evening there will be a screening of the 1999 drama *The Virgin Suicides*.

The fourth and final day of the festival is solely dedicated to fictional shorts. At the end, the day will be brought to a close with the final feature presentation; *My Neighbor Totoro*, the fourth film made by iconic Japanese

SEE FILM, PAGE B4

Sound exhibit creates immersive experience



COURTESY OF SARAH SCHREIB

You Are Hear surrounds students in the sounds of the city of Baltimore and the Hopkins campus.

By **SARAH SCHREIB**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

As students pass through Q-level of MSE Library they may have noticed the array of sounds emanating from a small silver speaker attached to the wall. These sounds, which range from energetic music to the buzzing of the natural world, are part of an exhibit titled *You Are Hear*, which will continue until March 31.

You Are Hear was created by juniors Raquel Serruya and Carlos Concepcion and sophomore Nina Krauss, who were encouraged by their professor Anand Pandian to turn a final project from their Ecological Anthropology class into a public exhibit.

The original project was centered around exploring different aspects of the urban ecology of Baltimore from an environmental angle. Topics ranged from food deserts in the city to the Prettyboy Dam to the Hopkins bubble.

The group that focused on the sounds of Baltimore originally consisted of five group members, with each member recording a specific sound on their iPhone. The themes for the sounds chosen were broad terms like nature, transportation and music.

"We wanted sounds that would make the listener experience a day in the life of a Hopkins student," Serruya wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "In fact, the original title of

the work was *A Day in the Life*. We changed it when we made it into an exhibit."

In order to make the exhibit specific to the Hopkins experience, the sounds chosen are those found in and around campus.

"We chose the sound of birds chirping in Wyman Park Dell, the sound of riding the JHMI, the protesters marching up North Charles St., the construction that was happening on the corner of St. Paul and 33rd and more that we considered defined a day in the life during April 2015," Serruya wrote.

After the initial project, the members of the group met with Pandian for advice about how to best present the sounds and finalize what type of experience they wanted to create for listeners.

Pandian commented on the final result of the group's work on the exhibit.

"I spent some time the other day sitting in

Q-level and letting those sounds wash over me once again. I'm very impressed with what they've achieved," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Since the installation of the exhibit on March 7, Serruya has noticed students taking an interest in the sounds that echo throughout the area.

"We think that students are curious about the exhibit. We've noticed the curious expressions on our peers' faces as they walk past the exhibit and pause for a few seconds to listen," she wrote. "We've also seen students set up the tables under the sounds and we like to think it's because they want to immerse themselves in the sounds as they do work."

Ultimately, the curators of *You Are Hear* hope to generate a new type of experience for students and others who pass through or sit in on the exhibit.

"We wanted to create a soundscape where people could try to focus on their hearing instead of their sight."

Pandian also noted the importance of the exhibit as a way of connecting with the elements of our city and our community that can often be forgotten.

"These sounds serve as a concrete reminder of the mood and feeling of an important time that has since passed," he wrote. "These sounds also encourage us to attune ourselves more carefully to the neglected nuances and textures of where we live, and to find new ways of inhabiting a city like this one and learning to live more conscientiously with the many other beings."

10 Cloverfield Lane flings twists at viewers

By **DUBRAY KINNEY**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

10 Cloverfield Lane is the second film in the *Cloverfield* anthology franchise helmed by J.J. Abrams (*Star Trek*, *Lost*). This is the feature film debut of director Dan Trachtenberg who previously directed a short film for the popular PC game *Portal*. The film stars Mary Elizabeth Winstead (*The Thing*, *Scott Pilgrim vs. The World*), John Goodman (*Inside Llewyn Davis*, *The Big Lebowski*) and John Gallagher, Jr. (*The Newsroom*, *Short Term 12*).

The film's release follows that of 2008's *Cloverfield*, the genre-defining found footage movie known for its understated, yet entrancing advertisement campaign. The film's first trailer consisted of a recording of a party before the guests run out onto the New York City streets, only to see the head of the Statue

of Liberty flung at them.

10 Cloverfield Lane centers around Winstead's Michelle, a woman who leaves her significant other in the opening scenes of the film before getting into a car crash on a Louisiana road in the middle of the night. She awakens in an underground bunker with Goodman's Howard, a survivalist/conspiracy theorist who informs Michelle that some sort of attack has occurred above ground that has left the air toxic to human beings and that they will remain safe in the bunker. John Gallagher, Jr.'s character, Emmett, is introduced shortly afterwards as a source of comic relief and a conflicting viewpoint to Howard's pragmatic paranoia.

The true quality of *10 Cloverfield Lane* comes in the thought that nothing can be truly trusted, especially in the form of Goodman's performance as Howard. Throughout the

film, it should be acknowledged that everything is being seen through the viewpoint of Michelle. As new information comes to light, Michelle's opinion of Howard flip-flops from trusting to cautious. The audience is directed into similar emotions by Goodman's strong performance. With the simple inflection of his voice on certain topics or the word choice that he manages to make sound creepy or emotional, it's as easy to empathize and trust Howard as it is to demonize him.

Yet, this all pales in comparison to the fact that the film truly gives off the feeling that we as the audience are basically in Michelle's shoes. The film can feel as claustrophobic as she does when trapped in the shelter. She is plagued with the thought of never truly knowing what's going on.

Up until the final moments of the film, any

thought that is contributed by any character is fair game and the fact that only three actors take up the majority of the screen-time makes every word worth dissecting in an attempt to find the truth.

Mary Elizabeth Winstead's performance is also notable. It has to be considering she is the audience surrogate. Her performance as Michelle has flashes of the same ruthless ambition that Charlize Theron honed in *Mad Max: Fury Road* or Sharni Vinson showed in cult-horror film *You're Next*. Michelle is another step forward in the strong and unique female protagonists that have taken Hollywood by storm. Her toughness and drive make her an easy character to cheer on throughout the duration of the film.

By the end of *10 Cloverfield Lane* there are plenty of shifts and twists yet nothing feels contrived or cliché. Everything has been set-up and executed in a way that makes the film feel as if it got away with plenty without cheating the audience.

Those expecting a sequential sequel to *Cloverfield* will be disappointed. However, this film is still worth a watch. It has the spirit of *Cloverfield* and manages to execute it much better than the slightly disappointing found-footage film from 2008. Those eager to see a riveting thriller should definitely seek this one out, especially considering it has proved to be one of the best films in a cinema lull after awards season.

Students favor online streaming over TV

By **MARCIA ZIMMERMAN**
Staff Writer

"Netflix and chill," "Amazon Prime and commitment" and "Hulu and hang" are some of the most common pick-up lines of the modern college community, epitomizing the shift from network television series to online streaming services.

When today's college students were young, they waited for the release of the new Disney Channel Original movie that aired on TV at one time. Now, instead of having to set aside the same time each week to sit faithfully in front of a cable-connected television set (a rarity on many college campuses), students can "chill" and casually watch a full show, a whole season or simply the first 15 minutes.

College students brag to their friends and on Yik Yak about how many episodes they binge watch, a term which entails watching many episodes (or seasons) of TV shows in rapid succession.

This interest in streaming on the Hopkins campus can be

found in both individual and group settings. In fact, a Resident Advisor in AMR II's Baker House who streams episodes of *Avatar: The Last Airbender* for his residents on a weekly basis.

Innovation in the television industry has been characterized by new technological applications and convenience. Customers wanted to be able to watch their favorite shows and movies at any time on command, so TV cable companies created "On Demand." The game changer was that consumers could now schedule what they wanted to watch, when they wanted to watch it.

Innovation in the television industry has been characterized by new technological applications and convenience. Customers wanted to be able to watch their favorite shows and movies at any time on command, so TV cable companies created "On Demand". The game changer was that consumers could now schedule what they wanted to watch, when they wanted to watch it.

Netflix's CEO, Reed Hastings, who started his company out of frustration

SEE STREAMING, PAGE B4



GAGE SKIDMORE/CC-BY-SA-2.0

Actress Mary Elizabeth Winstead stars as Michelle in *10 Cloverfield Lane*, the newest J.J. Abrams film.

Film fest contributors bring variety, poeticism

FILM, FROM B3
animation director Hayao Miyazaki.

Original works from ten different directors will be presented during the festival under two different categories: documentary and fiction. The ten final choices were selected from the 118 submissions that the Film Society received.

The documentarians are Bob Krist; Jason Outenreath; Kelly Adams; Christianna Miller; Jessica Sherry, who is making her debut with *Waiting for John*, a film about an obscure cult called "the John Frum Movement"; and Kendal Miller, who is presenting his film *The Flying Dutchmen*. This film follows an elderly man approaching blindness across United States.

The independent contributors are a collection of visual arts professionals whose experiences are as varied as the films they are presenting. Kirst is a noted photographer. Adams has worked in cinema in India. Outenreath founded a nonprofit which seeks to educate through film.

The fiction contributors are Cecelia Condit, Nicolas DeGrazia, Nick Wernham and Saj Pothiwala. This group of indiv also brings a variety of experiences. Condit is an award-winning artist specializing in video production.

DeGrazia is the co-

founder of Bitter Jest Creative, a noted Illinois production company; Wernham is a Canadian director who recently worked with Alison Brie and Colin Hanks to make *No Stranger Than Love*, a 2015 romantic comedy. Pothiwala has worked for CollegeHumor, BuzzFeed, AOL and MSN, along with creating his own production company, LandlineTV; Vegas, featured at the Festival, is his short film debut.

Gunnison expressed excitement for Condit's short, *Pulling Up Roots*.

"It's the only experimental film we're screening this year, which makes it stand out. I love the poeticism of this piece, and particularly it's mysterious and melodic [voice-over] narration," Gunnison wrote. "It's a strange and beautiful little film that I'm still trying to figure out."

The three feature films selected for the festival are *The Virgin Suicides*, *My Neighbor Totoro* and *Harold and Maude*, which has been stored in the Library of Congress.

Gunnison cited a "loose springtime theme" for these films. The marketing team of the festival picks up on this theme, including the featured poster.

"[The films] have an energy, colorfulness, and humor that we thought fit with the season," she wrote.



GEORGE BIARD/CC-BY-SA-3.0
Sofia Coppola directed the 1999 feature film *The Virgin Suicides*.

Zootopia plays with perception and stereotypes



Tim Freborg
Flashframe Film
Reviews

I won't mince words in this review. *Zootopia*, directed by Byron Howard and Rich Moore, is one of the smartest films Disney has ever produced. It is witty, biting, endearing, topical and a handful of other praiseworthy adjectives all rolled into a package that has been polished to a high-mirror shine. Contrary to appearances, this is no simple children's adventure romp with talking animals and forced, processed morals at the end. This is a film that absolutely anyone would be doing themselves a service to see, and it really must be seen, since its promotional material alone does not convey all of what this film is.

Of course, some of that praise ought to come as no real surprise; After all, Disney built nearly its entire reputation on releasing polished, critically-acclaimed animated work. From *Snow White* to *Frozen* to *Big Hero Six*, they've run the gamut from fairy tales to sci-fi, always with a flourish, a song or two and some kind of talking mascot.

Despite their varied history, however, Disney has never, to this reviewer's knowledge, released a film quite like *Zootopia*, a quirky buddy-cop mystery with, if you'll pardon the animal-pun, surprisingly sharp teeth.

Zootopia is set largely in a city of the same

ZOOTOPIA

Starring:
Idris Elba, Jason Bateman, Ginnifer Goodwin

Director:
Byron Howard, Rich Moore

Run Time:
108 mins.

Rating: PG-13

Now Playing:
Cinemark Towson, Senator Theatre, Landmark Cinema



CLAUDIO POZO/CC-BY-NC-ND-2.0
International pop-star Shakira plays Gazelle, an anthropomorphic pop-star in Disney's *Zootopia*.

name, in a world where anthropomorphic animals of all sorts have evolved to become the most developed beings on the planet. Among these animals is the ever-enthusiastic Judy Hopp (Ginnifer Goodwin), our rabbit protagonist who has recently come to the city to join the police force. Despite her drive and love for her job, however, Judy finds herself facing heavy discrimination on the force due to her lack of size and strength when compared to her fellow officers. After disobeying orders from her boss, Judy is nearly forced off the force, until a strange, eerie missing person's case bursts through the door.

Betting her career on solving the case within two days, Judy takes to the streets, ready to prove her mettle as a proper police officer. Along the way, she conscripts a literal fox of a con-artist named Nick Wilde (Jason Bateman), and together the two tackle the sordid underbelly of *Zootopia* and begin to uncover a plot

more sinister than it initially lets on.

At first glance, *Zootopia* seems like a very by-the-books buddy cop comedy, with a witty animal paint job. All of the stereotypes are in place: We start with the overeager-but-misunderstood, by-the-books cop; There's the sly, street-wise con man she partners with; There's the stern boss who doesn't want to listen. Even the animal choices for each character seem, on the surface, to be very shallow symbols. Of course the eager, energetic underdog would be a rabbit; Of course the sly trickster would be a fox. The writing, humor, plot and characters are all controlled by archetypes and preconceived notions. Audiences have expectations before the film even starts.

Truly, the best part of this is that the film recognizes this. It knows that audiences are looking for very specific things out of each character based solely on what animal they are and what job they have in this animal-controlled world. It counts on it.

From that origin point, the film starts to take apart those expectations, one by one. Scene by scene, the film grows from a simple mystery to a surprisingly gripping analysis on society and the divisions between the people in it. The struggles Judy and Nick individually endure speak volumes about the notions of preconceptions. The lines between predator and prey animals, which are crucial aspects of the plot, carry surprisingly topical and compelling parallels to real issues facing society today.

Zootopia meticulously picks away not just what we as society tend to see in groups of people, but how those expectations forcibly twist the world and people around us to fit what we expect to see. More importantly, it highlights just how that thinking affects the faces behind the stereotypes, in a manner that can be eas-

ily digested even by very young audiences. *Zootopia* is just as much dramatic allegory as it is animated comedy, and it is a much stronger film for it.

All that being said, it's important not to lose perspective. Dramatic allegory or no, this is still a Disney film, targeting a primarily young demographic; A film like that can realistically only get so in-depth and serious. And yes, the film recognizes that it is, first and foremost, an animated comedy. There's plenty of slapstick comedy and lighthearted jokes.

The animation is bright and colorful, with every animal beautifully rendered and incredibly expressive. The voice actors deliver their lines with oomph and energy, each with distinct personalities and quirks that will quickly endear themselves to audiences. Goodwin and Bateman particularly have such a fun chemistry between them that their characters are easily worthy of standing with some of the buddy-cop greats.

The beauty of these typical children's film tropes, though, is that the way they are used doesn't lessen the value of any of the film's more powerful messages. It would have been so easy for Disney to leave *Zootopia* as simply a mystery-adventure with some quirky animal characters to sell toys.

They could have thrown in a shoehorned message at the last minute about everyone getting along, good beating evil or something similar, and no one would have faulted them for it. Instead, Disney took the road less travelled, offering a smart film that doesn't shy away from issues that matter, and presenting it in such a way as to make the message accessible to absolutely anyone.

Zootopia is, to reiterate, easily one of the best films Disney has ever put out and is definitely worthy of some attention.

Netflix streaming alters the way stories are told

STREAMING, FROM B3
with late fees, sees his company and the online streaming industry going even further. In a recent interview with CNBC, he predicted that within the next 10 to 20 years, all TV will be internet TV.

The largest advance of this new form of viewing, in terms of importance to consumers, seems to be the convenience aspect. Consumers can now watch cartoons normally reserved for Saturday mornings on a Tuesday at 2 a.m. or a Sunday afternoon.

Another significant factor is price. For example, Netflix costs \$7.99 per month while the average cable bill is \$99 per month. Internet TV is also more accessible for on-the-go consumers since it can be watched from any internet-connected laptop, cell phone, tablet or TV. Only short commercials (or none whatsoever) interrupt these shows, lead-

ing to a more immersive experience.

Internet TV providers also have their own exclusive content. Netflix has *Master of None* and *House of Cards*, Amazon Prime has *The Wire* and *Alpha House* and Hulu has *Community* and *Casual*. The shows on internet TV are also not subject to ratings, so the providers measure data analytics in a different way.

"We are just a learning machine," Netflix's Hastings said in the same interview with CNBC. "Every time we put out a new show we are analyzing it, figuring out what worked and what didn't so we get better next time."

However, there new system presents certain downsides as well. When shows are streaming on internet TV as well as cable, it can take a while for the internet TV to get up to date. For example, season two of *How to Get Away With Murder* ended on March 17, 2016. The first season of the

popular show is on Netflix, yet viewers who only have access to Netflix must wait for the entire second season to finish airing, and there is not even a guaranteed release date yet.

"Binge watching" shows also happens more often on internet TV since there are no commercials and shows simply play back-to-back. According to a study performed by Georgia Southern University, individuals who frequently binge watch TV shows are more likely to be depressed or have a preexisting anxious attachment style.

Reader's Digest also commented on the binge-watching phenomenon and how it is affecting adults' health. "Adults who watched more than three hours of TV a day doubled their risk of premature death compared to those who watched less, found researchers as reported in a recent study published in the *Journal*

of the American Heart Association," author Chelsea Stone wrote in the article.

Whether positive or negative, the rise of internet TV has far reaching implications. As previously mentioned, internet TV providers base their data analysis on secretive methods. This innovation in the television industry also means that broadcast TV must innovate with better prices or deals with streaming companies. According to an article on Den of Geek by Joseph Russell, internet TV is changing the way stories are being told on shows.

"There's no longer a need to force in manipulative act-break cliffhangers, which often sit uncomfortably within the narrative," he wrote. "This allows Netflix's original stories to be written in such a way that they unfold more gradually, rather than rushing from plot-point to plot-point."



DFID/CC-BY-NC-2.0
Idris Elba plays Chief Bogo, a cape buffalo, in Disney's *Zootopia*.

Overall rating: 9.5/10

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Students experiment with art and sound outside of Hopkins

Will Scerbo,
musician and music
director of WJHU

BY DUBRAY KINNEY, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Sophomore Will Scerbo is an experimental musician known as WRS, the music director of WJHU and a fan of the Baltimore music scene. He attempts to balance all three while still doing his schoolwork.

This interview has been condensed and edited.

The News-Letter: How would you describe the music you make?

Will Scerbo: It starts out as me improvising and constructing beats from strange sounds I find on the Internet and recordings I make. From these beats I write lyrics and chords to go over them, constructing songs out of them. Genre-wise it's like lo-fi experimental pop music because I write songs with choruses, and I write songs with hooks that might not have pop structure but I like catchy melodies. I like weirdness too, and I guess my interpretation of something catchy and fun might sound weird to other people. Recently I've tried to make music, like remixes and straight party music but sort of adding my own touch to it. I like to think it's insane party music.

N-L: Is Hopkins Underground really a thing?

WS: To be honest, I don't really think it's a thing. It's more of a group of friends, and I know a lot of scenes start as groups of friends. I would say that Hopkins doesn't really have anything, but I'm looking to start something. I would say there's a lot of artistic talent here, and there's not necessarily room for the school to get involved but I think it'd be nice if there were a space for us to play on campus.

N-L: Do you think WJHU helps shape the Hopkins music scene?

WS: Yeah, because, to a certain extent, I don't think it's the sole catalyst. I think it's extremely important as are other organizations like Film Society, which is a great club for promoting film to students. At Neil [Mallinar]'s [Tradition Scarf] show, the members of the one live band that played are on WJHU Executive Board, and I'm on WJHU Executive Board.

N-L: Do you think it might be easier to get involved in arts now than it was four years ago?

WS: I guess I don't really have a perspective because I wasn't there. I think it's all a matter of how you feel because a lot of people say, "Oh I don't want to go to these shows because I don't want to go out into the city." I think it's a matter of getting out there and seeing what's going on. I think the DMC promote weird art s*** a lot. I think they're pretty good at that. Jimmy Joe Roche is an experimental musician and a professor here and at MICA. He made me realize last semester I should go to more of these things because Jimmy is always inviting me to his events. I'm busy a lot, but that always feels like an excuse of sorts rather than a valid reason. I have a huge passion for arts.

Francesca D'Uva,
musician and
comedian

BY DUBRAY KINNEY, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Senior Francesca D'Uva majors in computer music composition at the Peabody Institute and performs music in the Baltimore area. She also performs comedy as a member of Throat Culture.

This interview has been condensed and edited.

The News-Letter: How long have you been making music?

Francesca D'Uva: I think I remember writing my first piece on the piano in first grade before I started taking lessons, and then I started piano lessons and made my final transformation into an uncreative pawn in the classical music game. I remember writing my first hook in sixth grade on a family vacation, and the lyrics were "I party in the club every day and night, and I like to shoot the whiskey." The lyrics don't read that well; you have to hear me sing them.

N-L: What contributions do you think Hopkins students can make to the Baltimore music scene?

FD: I think Hopkins students are the same as all other children, and I believe children are our future! Really, I think what's important is not that they're "Hopkins students" but that they're all individuals who have something special and unique to contribute to the community. I think it's important they approach Baltimore in a friendly way, genuinely trying to establish relationships with people in the "scene" and seeing what comes out of those relationships instead of trying to penetrate "the scene" just for the sake of penetrating "the scene."

N-L: Are you working with anyone else in the Baltimore or Hopkins scene? If so, what's the process of creating via collaboration like?

FD: Well my BFF from high school goes to MICA, and he's working on some visuals for my senior recital which is cool. I've worked with him a couple times on video projects. I also did the music for another high school friend/MICA student's fashion line in the experimental fashion show.

N-L: Do you have anything exciting coming up?

FD: My senior recital is coming down my pipeline on March 30th — I'm gonna graduate! Hopefully I'll get some gigs for April and May before I have to leave Baltimore.

N-L: Are there any other Hopkins or Baltimore artists you'd recommend?

FD: So many! All my peers at Peabody such as Robby Neubauer, Matt Sullivan and Edwin Huet make good, good music, and I think more people should listen to that. Check out their soundclouds. From Baltimore in general I think TT is obviously amazing as well as Nudie Suits, Horse Lords, Sneaks and Dad's Chain. Also people should go to the BSO [Baltimore Symphony Orchestra]!

Tatiana Ford,
actress, singer
and artist

BY SARAH SCHREIB, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Tatiana Ford, a senior cognitive science and Spanish major from Chicago, has been creating art since she was young — she won the Chicago Kids Day Coloring Contest when she was four. In the years since, she has acted in and directed a number of Witness Theater productions and taken her musical abilities off-campus.

This interview has been condensed and edited.

The News-Letter: How long have you been involved in the arts?

Tatiana Ford: I have always loved to be on stage or showcase my work. It's very cathartic. I feel like I am really awkward and private in person but once on stage and once I show people my art, I feel free.

N-L: How would you describe yourself as an artist?

TF: I like to use myself as a medium. I am my favorite medium of art. As an artist, I think I am very incognito: private but open. I like to put my work out in any form, and usually folks don't recognize it as mine, and I like that. I like my art to stay simply as art. As an artist I like my work to have varied themes of anxiety and neurosis, which isn't necessarily always a bad thing.

N-L: What inspires your art and music?

TF: I draw inspiration from my chaotic mind and how the events and people in my life have made me who I am. I like to use all of the negative experiences I've had with people and plaster it to my art. I like to see all of the negative as something tangible, exposed to the world.

N-L: Do you collaborate with other artists and musicians at Hopkins?

TF: Not as much as I like. Art should be that, though. Don't you think? It should just be a collaboration of people's minds and experiences. Art makes the ugly pretty even if it is still ugly.

N-L: How did you get involved with Tradition Scarf and the student-run Arts Night?

TF: I got involved in Tradition Scarf because of a friend, Neil Rohit Mallinar, who hosted the event. I think I have a pretty and smooth voice, and I love when I can hear it.

N-L: Have your experiences at Hopkins shaped your work?

TF: My work at Hopkins has made me more proud to throw everything out of me. It has made me relaxed in my work. Hopkins has connected me with more artists, and I am thankful for that. Being stuck in this joint has made my work more grimy. I like that.

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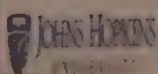
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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Researchers harvest crops from lunar soil

Google's AlphaGo defeats Go Master

By RAYYAN JOKHAI
Staff Writer

Recently, researchers at the Wageningen University and Research Center in the Netherlands found that they were able to grow 10 different crop species in soil samples designed to simulate Mars and the moon. The crops included common vegetables like tomatoes, peas, rye, garden rocket (arugula), radishes and garden cress.

"The total above ground biomass produced on the Mars soil simulant was not significantly different from the potting compost we used as a control," Dr. Wieger Wamelink, one of the researchers working on the project, said in a press release.

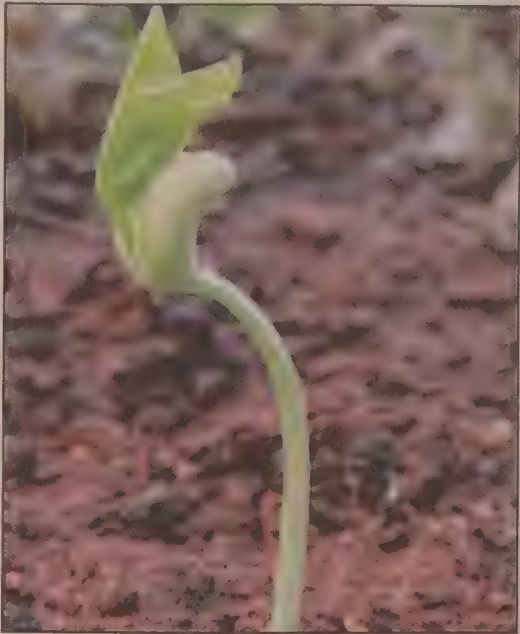
Their team was pleased with these findings, as its main project is to provide the basis for growing crops on Mars and on the moon in order to feed future settlers in those regions.

The experiment started in 2013 when the team created soil simulants that closely mimicked the soils that were found on Mars and the moon, which were provided to

them by the NASA. The plants that were grown in the Mars soil simulant seemed to be growing well, but the ones in the lunar soil simulant died shortly after germination.

In 2015, the team decided to start a new experiment and improve upon the design of the first investigation. The researchers used trays instead of small pots and added organic material, like freshly cut grass, to enrich the Mars and moon soil simulants. In doing so, the team eliminated the problem of watering the crops that was present in the first experiment. Additionally, manure was added to the soils to enhance crop growth. As a result, the moon soil simulant showed substantial improvement. While most plants in the moon simulant had died during the first round of investigation, the second-round moon simulant plants flourished and harvested as well as those in the Mars soil simulant and the Earth soil control.

The Mars simulant crop production differed only slightly from the Earth control, only because one tray showed



VINAYARAJ/CC-BY-SA-3.0
Previous seedlings planted in lunar soil simulant died after germination.

less growth than all the others. The results were not significantly different between the experimental and control groups, which suggests that the Mars soil has the potential to grow crops if it is properly utilized. In comparison, the moon soil simulant had significantly different growth, as only half of the control group's biomass was produced in the moon soil simulant.

While the crop yield has improved since the first experiment, the crops themselves may not actually be edible.

"The soils contain heavy metals like lead,

arsenic and mercury and also a lot of iron. If the components become available for the plants, they may be taken up and find their way into the fruits, making them poisonous. Further research on this is necessary and that is one of the reasons why a crowdfunding campaign has been started to finance the third experiment that will be all about food safety," Wamelink said.

The team is planning on starting the third experiment this April. This time around, they plan on growing a new batch of crops, including potatoes and beans.

By SCOTT ZHENG
For The News-Letter

Have you ever imagined a future where robots can play your favorite game with or against you? Now, imagine that you were a world champion at this game. If this were the case, you might think that no computer would be able to defeat you, which is exactly what the artificial intelligence (AI) community thought of the game Go.

Go, a game that originated in ancient China, is a complex strategy-heavy board game for two players who take turns putting stones on a 19x19 board. The purpose of the game is to control more territory than one's opponent.

Despite Go's seemingly simple rules, the game itself is very complex since there are approximately 10,170 unique games possible (compared to 10,120 unique games for chess), which is why some experts thought that it would take another 10 years for a Go computer program to defeat a human Go champion.

In 2014, Google Deepmind in London developed a program called AlphaGo that plays a unique style of Go, which has been found to confuse many top players. Each move that the computer makes is de-

signed to raise the probability of winning, even if it makes minor sacrifices along the way. The program had previously played against the European Go champion, Fan Hui, and won 5-0 in October of 2015.

Recently, a series of five Go matches was played from March 9-15 between Google's AlphaGo program and Lee Se-dol, a top-tier Go champion. Many commentators said that there was a massive difference in skill level between Lee and Fan, the European champion. Before the series, many experts predicted that Lee would win against the computer. Lee himself was also confident of a victory.

However, to the surprise of these experts, AlphaGo won the first game of the series. While Lee led for most of the game, AlphaGo took advantage in the last 20 minutes after Lee made increasingly more mistakes as the game went on, showing that the machine's consistency was able to best human creativity.

The second game was much more lopsided than the first, with AlphaGo in command from the beginning. Lee commented that AlphaGo played a "nearly perfect game," and AlphaGo was certain of victory midway through the

SEE GO, PAGE B8

Peanut consumption may prevent allergy

By SABRINA CHEN
Staff Writer

A recent study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* provides evidence that an early introduction of peanuts into the diets of infants will significantly reduce the risk of peanut allergy. More specifically, the study found that infants with a high risk of developing peanut allergy will be protected from having a peanut allergy at age five if they eat peanuts and peanut products frequently starting within the first 11 months of life.

The study, named the LEAP-On, was a follow-up of a study called LEAP (Learning Early About Peanut Allergy). Both studies were led by Professor Gideon Lack at King's College London. LEAP-On was undertaken at Evelina London Children's Hospital, and 550 patients from the original LEAP study participated in the trials. In the LEAP study, the participants were randomly

split into two groups, called "avoid peanut" and "eat peanut." Of the 550 LEAP-On participants, 280 were sorted into the peanut avoidance category, while 270 were sorted into the peanut consumption category during the original LEAP study. The questionnaire assessments following the study showed that the subjects had a 92 percent rate of adherence to these interventions.

Each participant was instructed to avoid peanuts for 12 months after they had completed the LEAP study, regardless of which group they were placed into at the start of the study. The adherence to avoiding peanuts during this time frame was also found to be relatively high: it was 90.4 percent for participants in the original "avoid peanut" category and 69.3 percent for individuals in the original "eat peanut" category.

After the 12 months of no-peanut diets, a rigorous clinical assessment of peanut allergy was

SEE PEANUTS, PAGE B8



FLYINGDREAM/PUBLIC DOMAIN

Children who eat peanuts are less likely to develop peanut allergies.

New material can fold into nearly any shape

By PAIGE FRANK
Staff Writer

A team of engineers recently found inspiration in the art of origami, creating a material that can fold itself into almost any imaginable shape. The material is able to change not only its shape, but its size and volume as well.

The material, described in *Nature Communications*, was discovered by Katia Bertoldi, the John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Natural Sciences at the John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) at Harvard University, James Weaver, Senior Research Scientist at the Wyss Institute for Biologically Inspired Engineering at Harvard and Chuck Hoberman of the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

"We've designed a three-dimensional, thin-walled structure that can be used to make foldable and reprogrammable objects of arbitrary architecture, whose shape, volume and stiffness can be dramatically altered and continuously tuned and controlled," Johannes T. B. Overvelde, a graduate student in Bertoldi's lab and first author of the paper, said in a press release.

The material is extruded from cubes and consists of 24 faces and 36 edges. Each of the edges acts analogously to hinges, giving the material the freedom to fold along each edge in order



ANDREAS BAUER/CC-BY-SA-2.5

The researchers who discovered this new, foldable material were inspired by the art of origami.

to change its shape. The final extruded product is thin-walled, versatile and self-actuated. By implanting pneumatic actuators onto the material, the researchers made control of the each of the material's properties programmable.

"The opportunities to move all of the control systems onboard combined with new actuation systems already being developed for similar origami-like structures really opens up the design space for these easily deployable transformable structures," Weaver said in a press release.

The researchers demonstrated the properties of the new material by connecting 64 of the three-dimensional cells to create a 4x4x4 cube. Manipulating the cube along each of its edges enabled the team to change its global shape and the orientation of

its microstructure. The researchers were even able to fold it completely flat. The flexibility of the new material is not limited to three dimensions. Changing the structure gives researchers control over a fourth dimension, stiffness. When folded flat, the material can support the weight of an elephant without any deformation, allowing it to be opened back up to a three-dimensional shape.

"We not only understand how the material deforms, but also have an actuation approach that harnesses this understanding," Bertoldi said in a press release. "We know exactly what we need to actuate in order to get the shape we want."

Applications for the material have few limitations. It can be embedded into almost any actuator, from dielectrics

to water, and has been proven to function not only on the nano-scale but also on the scale of meters. This opens up the new material to any number of potential uses. The team predicts the material will have the greatest impact on dynamic architectural projects, such as portable shelters, adaptive building facades and retractable roofs.

"Whereas current approaches to these applications rely on standard mechanics, this technology offers unique advantages such as how it integrates surface and structure, its inherent simplicity of manufacture and its ability to fold flat," Hoberman said in a press release.

As research into the material continues, the future may one day see houses folding up to fit into a backpack, or tables becoming chairs at the press of a button.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Can you live with a compressed brain?



Duy Phan
The Brain Wave

The brain swims in a liquid called cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). Normally flowing through "holes" in the brain known as ventricles, CSF has many important functions such as providing protection to the brain, delivering essential nutrients and carrying away brain waste.

At times, the CSF flow system can occasionally go awry. Hydrocephalus ("hydro" meaning water and "cephalus" meaning head) is a medical condition that describes excessive accumulation of CSF in the brain. As a result, the ventricles widen, and the excessive CSF pushes out onto the brain tissue. This increased pressure essentially compresses the brain like flattening a pancake.

Hydrocephalus can occur in both children and adults. In babies, hydrocephalus often presents itself in the form of an unusually large head. The applied pressure expands the skull since the joints that connect the bones of the skull are not yet closed. With early diagnosis and treatment, infants with hydrocephalus can grow up to live relatively healthy lives. Hydrocephalus is treated by installing a shunt system to drain the CSF out of the brain and move it into the abdominal cavity. Hydrocephalus can also occur after birth and is often caused by traumas such as strokes and infections.

If left untreated, hydrocephalus can permanently damage the brain, disrupting mental functions. This, in turn, can result in thinking and memory problems. In infants, untreated hydrocephalus can also lead to early death. This should not

be surprising because no brain would like being compressed.

Despite the fact that hydrocephalus damages the brain, doctors from Johns Hopkins Hospital recently published an astonishing case study in the medical journal *Lancet* documenting a 62-year-old woman with normal mental function despite chronic hydrocephalus.

As reported in the case study, the woman came to the hospital after her family found her passed out on the floor. The woman was examined and found to have altered mental function characterized by a confused conscious state. Following a brain scan at the hospital, doctors found hydrocephalus in her brain. Believing the hydrocephalus to be acute and the cause of her altered mental function, the doctors attempted to initiate treatment by putting in a CSF drain.

Yet, despite the hydrocephalus observed in the brain scan images, the doctors discovered the pressure inside her skull was normal, and they removed the drain after two days. The doctors then made the diagnosis of a blood infection due to pneumonia. Following treatments with antibiotics, the woman's mental state returned to normal, leading them to conclude the infection rather than hydrocephalus was responsible for disrupting her brain function.

Given that the pressure inside the woman's skull was normal (even slightly below) and that her medical history was normal, the Hopkins medical team concluded her hydrocephalus likely had been present since birth. So far, this is the first documented case in which an individual has been able to retain normal brain function despite a compressed brain due to hydrocephalus. The woman in this case study still managed to function despite significant compression, highlighting the incredible plasticity of the brain.

Eating peanuts reduces peanut allergy risk

PEANUTS, FROM B7

made by having the participants consume peanuts in different quantities. Additional peanut allergy assessments included a questionnaire, a skin prick test and the measurement of peanut-specific immune markers, such as IgE and IgG4, in the participants' blood.

At six years of age, the individuals who had been randomly assigned to the peanut consumption category did not have an increase in peanut allergy after the 12 months of avoidance. More specifically, this increase was 3.6 percent in those who had consumed peanuts for 60 months versus 4.8 percent in those who had consumed peanuts for 72 months. In addition, it was found that those who had been randomly assigned to the peanut avoidance group had an allergy increase of 18.6 percent, significantly higher than the 4.8 percent increase found in the peanut-eating group. Furthermore there were

only three subjects in that group who developed a new peanut allergy during the 12 months of peanut avoidance.

It was concluded that infants with a high risk of peanut allergy can reduce later cases if peanuts are introduced to their diet during the first year of life and consumption is continued until age five. Overall the study showed a 74 percent relative reduction in the prevalence of peanut allergy in those who consumed peanuts compared to those who avoided them.

"The aim of our study was to find out whether infants who had consumed peanut in the LEAP study would remain protected against peanut allergy after they stopped eating peanuts for 12 months," Lack said in a press release. "LEAP-ON clearly demonstrates that the majority of infants did in fact remain protected and that the protection was long-lasting."

Researchers noted the



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Roughly three million Americans are allergic to peanuts and tree nuts.

design of the LEAP study did not allow for a determination of the minimum frequency or amount of peanut consumption required in early childhood to prevent an allergic response. The authors of the study are planning to further examine the relationship between early-life peanut consumption and the ad-lib consumption of peanuts over many years.

"The longer-term ef-

fects of stopping eating peanuts following introduction early in life are not known, and further studies are needed," Lack said. "Parents of infants and young children with eczema and/or egg allergy and so considered high-risk to peanut allergy should consult with an allergist, pediatrician or their general practitioner prior to feeding them peanut products."

Zika virus can destroy neural progenitor cells

By TONY WU
Senior Staff Writer

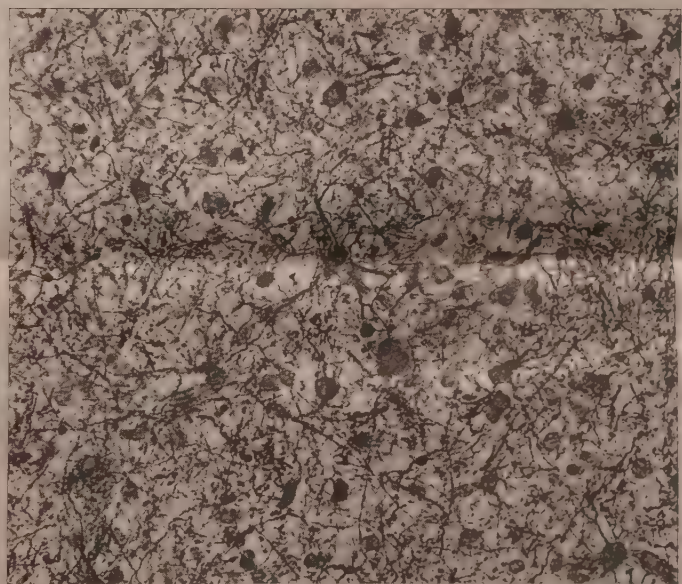
On March 19 the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a Level 2 travel notice for those who plan to visit regions afflicted with Zika virus, encouraging travelers to practice enhanced precautions. These warnings about the Zika virus are growing alongside new evidence that causally links Zika virus to microcephaly, a condition that hinders brain development.

Patients with Zika virus can have a range of symptoms including fever, rash, joint pain and headache. However, the onset time for these symptoms is often days after the disease has been contracted. In addition, the virus can remain in the blood for a week, during which the virus can be transmitted to other people by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito as well as through sexual contact. Currently there is

no treatment or vaccine for this disease.

Recently this disease captured the attention of researchers because of its effect on northeastern Brazil. Many newborn babies in this region have been diagnosed with microcephaly.

Patients with microcephaly have smaller head circumferences, usually with a cutoff size of less than 31.9 to 31.5 centimeters. The prevalence of microcephaly is 0.6 for every 10,000 births in places without Zika vi-



NEPHRON/CC-BY-SA-3.0

Researchers discovered that Zika virus can disrupt the growth of certain types of brain cells.

rus but the number rises substantially in places where it is present. Some northeastern Brazilian towns such as Pernambuco and Paraiba have more than 10 cases of microcephaly per 10,000 births.

This correlation between microcephaly and Zika virus points to the possibility the virus can cause severe brain damage in babies. As a result, the CDC has issued warnings to pregnant women traveling to regions with Zika virus. However, there was little research to support the claim that Zika causes microcephaly until a group of scientists from Johns Hopkins, Florida State and Emory Universities discovered that the virus affects a type of brain tissue. In laboratory experiments, researchers found that Zika virus can destroy and disrupt the growth of neural progenitor cells, which are responsible for the development of the nervous system. In these experiments, the virus infected the majority of the neural progenitor cells resulting in the death of one-third of the cells. The virus is also able to invade other tissues such as kidney cells and embryonic stem cells, although to a lesser degree.

Despite this potential explanation of the link between Zika virus and microcephaly, researchers warn there has been no definitive evidence the Zika virus causes microcephaly. Additional research could be done to further explore the impact of Zika virus on human health. Researchers are also unable to explain the method with which the virus targets neural progenitor cells.

Other countries in the Americas and the Caribbean have faced many cases of Zika virus in late 2015 and early 2016 including more than 50 cases in the U.S., but these countries have not observed any increases in the prevalence of microcephaly. Most countries, however, expect an increase in microcephaly to begin in two or three months, and researchers there are planning studies on birth defects. This additional data should provide more information to researchers who are investigating the extent of the link between Zika virus and birth defects. Before more research is available, countries around the world are urging caution and advocating for the protection of pregnant women from mosquito bites.

Go Master Lee Se-Dol loses to AlphaGo program

GO, FROM B7

game even though many top-ranked players could not tell who was ahead at that point.

Although AlphaGo won the first two games, many still doubted whether it was truly a strong player. These doubts were erased in the third game, which AlphaGo reportedly won in a more convincing fashion.

Although the series was decided, games four and five were still played out. Lee finally broke through in game four, capitalizing on a rare mistake made by AlphaGo mid-game. Lee took a risky approach from the beginning in an attempt to counter AlphaGo's calculated approach.

This extremely calculated approach is something humans are able to harness after a large deal of

practice but on a far more limited level than the one AlphaGo operates on.

AlphaGo "played itself, different versions of itself, millions and millions of times and each time got incrementally slightly better — it learns from its mistakes," Demis Hassabis, chief executive of DeepMind, told the BBC before the matches started.

This learning tendency was evident in the fifth game when Lee adopted an all-out approach similar to his strategy in game four. AlphaGo still made some mistakes but it was able to adapt and learn from its mistakes in the previous game. In the end, the Go-playing computer fended off Lee's attacks in a very close contest. This ended the series, with AlphaGo winning four times and losing only once.

How did AlphaGo beat one of the best Go players in the world? Since there are so many possibilities in the game, the first step

for the AI is to make the number of available moves smaller. AlphaGo starts by choosing from 30 million high-level moves, and it plays out many different scenarios using its AI. It then chooses the move that maximizes its chances of winning.

Humans cannot calculate the probability of winning the way a com-

puter can. They often choose the best move for a given situation, going off their instincts and past experiences. However,

humans can have creativity and passion, which robots may never be able to replicate.

"I think the AI will ultimately defeat humans in Go, and it is an inevitable consequence of changing times," Lee told reporters. "But robots will never understand the beauty of the game the same way that we humans do."

"Robots will never understand the beauty of the game the same way that we humans do."

— LEE SE-DOL, GO MASTER

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

New material could serve as robotic skin

By ALBERT HUANG
For The News-Letter

Technology does change quickly, sometimes in leaps and bounds, but in this well-connected age, you don't have to be prescient to predict the advances that are pushing us into a new reality resembling science fiction.

Earlier this month, one of these discoveries was made by a team of Cornell University graduate students led by Assistant Professor Rob Shepherd of the Organic Robotics Lab. The new material described in *Science* as "highly stretchable electroluminescent skin for optical signaling and tactile sensing" could have far-reaching effects.

This new, soft material can give off light even under severe deformation, akin to the skin of an octopus. Octopuses possess skin that can deform liberally, while changing color in order to camouflage the animals or communicate their mood and intent. Many organisms in the wild use these color changes to communicate as we do every day through our technologies, from traffic lights to bio-feedback monitors. Many of these objects are hard and inflexible once they are cast into their permanent shapes. The ability to have a pliable material that can produce light is key in the development of more organic, "futuristic" technologies such as curved displays and even "electronic skins" for robots. Essentially, this type of material might one day allow you to comfortably give a robot a hug.

Following the paradigm of "bio-inspired design," which traces as far back as the development of Velcro, the study of the skins of natural organisms inspired the new material's creation. Similar materials had

been designed in the past few years but all of them were more limited in the amount of strain that the materials could withstand. Soft, synthetic materials like silicones were a benchmark of elasticity that the inventors at Cornell hoped their materials could match.

A silicone can be stretched from 400 to 700 percent along its plane before breakage. Other ordinary materials don't exceed a stretch of more than 120 percent.

But this new light-producing material can withstand more than twice that strain and is capable of resisting up to an ultimate strain of 480 percent. That means that you can pull it out to six times its size and still have it emit light successfully.

The secret is in its layers. The material is composed of layers of clear hydrogel electrodes around an insulating elastomer sheet. The elastomer is a pressure-sensitive material that changes its luminescence and its ability to store charge upon deformation. It can be also dynamic in its lighting, changing with response to touch.

One potential application that the researchers cited was the ability of this material to eventually enable humans to connect emotionally with robots by making them mood-sensitive and thereby more responsive to human interaction. As an early proof-of-concept, Shepherd's team designed a soft robot that can crawl, with a skin made of this flexible material fashioned into grids of individual pixels to allow dynamic coloration and sensory feedback. Given that living organisms are defined partly by their ability to react to others, this invention could be a first step toward developing more life-like synthetics.

Quantum dots shed light on viral infections

By KEVIN NECOCHEA
For The News-Letter

Within the past decade, research on quantum dots, particularly in the biomedical research field, has developed rapidly. New research focuses on combining the fields of nanomaterials and biomolecules to get nanoparticles to recognize and bind with biomolecular targets. Once combined with biomolecules, quantum dots can be used for specific cell labeling and imaging.

Using this technique, a research team at the University of Leeds recently discovered how exactly HIV and Ebola viruses attach to cells to spread infection. In this study, the team also demonstrated that quantum dots capped with specific polysaccharides, or sugars, can inhibit the entry of a pseudo-Ebola virus into target cells.

Quantum dots are small man-made crystals — 10,000 times narrower than a human hair — that possess tunable electronic characteristics. After being illuminated by light, the dots can glow a particular color depending on their size and shape. Big dots emit long wavelengths, whereas small dots emit shorter wavelengths.

These crystals are usually found in television screens, since the ability of crystals to precisely convert and tune spectrum light makes them ideal for LCD displays. Their usefulness in the biomolecular field

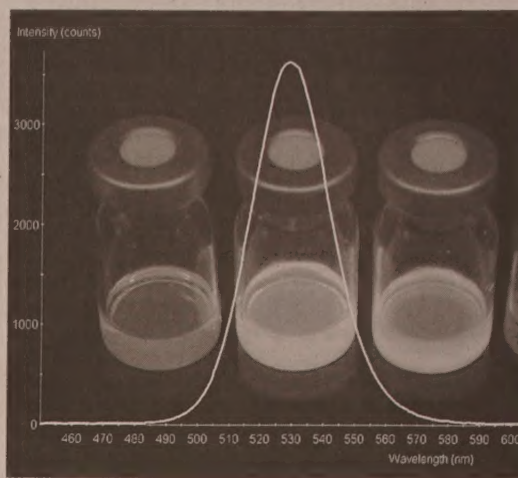
is currently being tested, and they are starting to emerge as advanced fluorescent probes for biomolecular and cellular research.

The research team led by Yuan Guo used quantum dots to mimic the shape of viruses and conducted experiments to reveal how viruses bind to cells, an interaction which was an enigma until now. The study exposed the ways in which two surface sugar-binding proteins on human cells — named "DC-SIGN" and "DC-SIGNR" — bind to the surface sugars on HIV and Ebola viruses, a critical step in virus infection and propagation.

Since quantum dots cannot bind directly to cells, they first have to be coated with sugars using a technique that was newly developed at the University of Leeds. Coating the quantum dots with sugar allows the dots to mimic the way that viruses attach to the surface of healthy cells.

"We often only hear about sugar in a negative light, about how consuming it is bad for our health. But there are many different types of sugars that play a vital role in human biology," co-author Bruce Turnbull of Cornell University said in a press release, referring to the way in which sugars interact with surface proteins.

In order to better understand what factors control the binding process between viruses and healthy cells, the researchers used a strategy known as quantum dot



NASA/PUBLIC DOMAIN

Quantum dots glow different colors based on their size and shape.

fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) microscopy.

FRET is predominantly used to examine the location and nature of the interactions between two specific molecular species. Combined with the fluorescence characteristics of quantum dots, FRET technology can also be applied to explore protein-ligand interactions for important biological events, such as the binding of HIV and Ebola virus surface sugars to surface proteins on cells.

This quantum dot FRET microscopy was not applied to probe protein-ligand interactions before because there was no effective approach to prepare compact, biocompatible and dense polyvalent quantum dots for sensitive FRET readout.

However, the team's approach to prepare these quantum dots

proved to be efficient and effective for their FRET readout strategy. Based on the data acquired by quantum dot FRET analysis, the research team proposed that the binding domains of DC-SIGN face upward along the coiled-coil axis connected to the cell surface, but they face sideways in DC-SIGNR. Because the binding domains of DC-SIGN face upward, multiple coated quantum dots are able to bind to each site.

The authors concluded that only DC-SIGN binds efficiently to small, spherical binding sites. Moreover, their findings reported that quantum dots coated with sugars can prevent a pseudo-Ebola virus from binding to target cells. This discovery can produce future strategies to inhibit DC-SIGN and DC-SIGNR-mediated infections.

Bacteria in your body can intercept viral RNA

By RAYYAN JOKHAI
For The News-Letter

A team of scientists from the University of Texas at Austin, the Stanford University School of Medicine and two other research institutions has unearthed bacteria's ability to recognize and intercept viruses, utilizing a mechanism involving RNA.

The new defense mechanism was discovered in *Marinomonas mediterranea*, a type of bacteria commonly found in the ocean. It's from a family of microbes called Gamma-proteobacteria, a class of bacteria that includes many pathogens that af-

fect humans and cause diseases like cholera, plague, lung infections and food poisoning.

This new mechanism is similar to another virus-fighting system called the CRISPR/Cas system that allows bacteria to capture foreign DNA. The discovery of this new mechanism may enable researchers to better fight viruses that threaten agricultural crops and dairy products.

The team of scientists has found that bacteria can take pieces of RNA contained in unwanted viruses in our body and incorporate these pieces within their own RNA. This acts as a mug shot that allows the bacteria to

recognize the same virus in the future so that the bacteria is able to interfere with the virus's detrimental activities.

The discovery has exciting implications, as scientists may be able to genetically engineer crops like tomatoes, which have this mechanism. In doing so, the plant will be equipped with a "virus detector" of sorts and will be able to fight off unwanted pathogens.

"Combining these plants with the environment that they face, be it natural or involving the application of herbicides, insecticides or fungicides, could lead to the discovery of how pathogens are getting to these

plants and what potential vectors could be," Georg Mohr, a research associate at UT Austin and first co-author of the paper, said in a press release.

Cheese and yogurt bacterial defense mechanisms could be strengthened with this new discovery, as both dairy products are commonly infected by viruses. Viruses that affect these products, and other dairy items, often prevent the production process from going to completion. Dairy bacteria, similar to agricultural bacteria, could be genetically engineered to record viral interactions in order to prevent future attacks.

A new discovery can help decimate tumors

By ADARSHA MALLA
Staff Writer

Researchers have developed a means to specifically identify and target tumor cells using specialized immune cells called T-cells, as well as antigens, that flag the earliest mutations of tumor cells.

Genetic mutations of tumors become more diverse as tumors develop, but many of these early mutations are flagged by antigens, researchers found, providing scientists with a means to target these tumor cells. While antigens can be identified and destroyed by the immune system's T-cells, these specialized, potent cells are inactivated by the tumor's defense

mechanism. The findings lay the groundwork for potential therapies that involve T-cells' re-activation or the harvesting and administering of T-cells into the patient.

Though the body's immune system is built to fight abnormal developments and mutated cells like tumors, the increasing genetic diversity of a growing tumor makes it extremely difficult for the immune system to suppress cancer.

"The body's immune system acts as the police trying to tackle cancer, the criminals. Genetically diverse tumors are like a gang of hoodlums involved in different crimes — from robbery to smuggling. And the immune

system struggles to keep on top of the cancer — just as it's difficult for police when there's so much going on," Sergio Quezada, co-author of the study, told Cancer Research UK, a cancer research and awareness organization. By discovering that antigens can mark many of these early genetic mutations, scientists can give the immune system a leg up in attacking cancer cells.

"Our research shows that instead of aimlessly chasing crimes in different neighborhoods, we can give the police the information they need to get to the kingpin at the root of all organized crime — or the weak spot in a patient's tumor — to

wipe out the problem for good," Quezada said.

This research opens up many opportunities for therapies to be developed specifically for different patients, potentially personalizing medicine. In the future, each patient could undergo immunotherapy that targets his or her specific cancer cells.

The research also sheds light on why particular patients respond better to immunotherapy than others. In the end, these findings not only create the potential for better cancer therapy, but also add to our growing knowledge of cancer development and the role that the immune system plays in it.

the johns hopkins
N-L

2016-2017

OPEN POSITIONS

WEBMASTER

Seeking JHU undergraduate student to manage The News-Letter's website, jhunewsletter.com, and assist with constantly evolving design efforts. Will be responsible for regular maintenance and implementation of new features. Works directly with Editors-in-Chief and Managing Editors.

Required: Experience with Wordpress OR computer science background plus a willingness to learn.

Freshmen and sophomores preferred.

BUSINESS STAFF

Various positions available in business management, advertising sales, financial accounting, marketing and social media. Must be a JHU undergraduate student.

Required previous experience varies with position, but is generally minimal.

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FOR MORE INFO

SPORTS

March Madness again proves unconquerable

MADNESS, FROM B12

matchups to a 50/50 chance. Then each game will be a true toss-up. Let physics and the Founding Fathers determine the outcome.

2. The School-Color Showdown

Maybe follow your wild side and choose the team with the rarer color, like purple or orange. Or, if you're a fan of the classic stars and stripes, stick to the conventional blues and reds. You could also just choose the most aesthetically pleasing combo of jersey colors.

The bright array of green and yellow is too much on that Oregon fellow? Then maybe Duke's classic white and blue is more pleasing to you. The possibilities are endless when you rely on the color wheel.

3. The Mascot Matchup

This well-known method and personal favorite begs the question, "Which mascot would win in a fight?"

Some are pretty black and white. Syracuse Orange or a Gonzaga Bulldog? Clearly Zags advance. A Villanova Wildcat or a Miami Hurricane? Sorry Nova, the forces of nature prevail.

But there's gray area, for instance, when considering Texas A&M and Oklahoma. An Aggie and a Sooner? Who really knows?

4. The Cuter Coach/Players/Cheerleaders Contest

Perhaps the least scientific of all, just choose the most attractive team.

Sure the team may be your rival or your enemy's alma mater, but if their point guard is dreamy and desirable, then they'll advance hands down.

You want to keep that boy on your big screen as long as possible. Follow the same advice for that cute coach or charming group of cheerleaders.

5. The Geography Game

Home court advantage? Doesn't exist! But more rowdy fans in attendance and more home crowd support? Definitely. With this approach, pick the team whose school is closest to the venue.

6. The Top Vacation Destination

Hawaii and Miami would definitely benefit here. But, if the nation followed this method, Kansas would certainly not have a quarter of the votes for National Champions.

7. The Brainiac Bracket

The schools' team is obviously talented, but do they have the brains to go with it? Consider using the *U.S. News and World Reports* or other official academic rankings. Carrying the Yales, Notre Dames, Dukes alike may work to your advantage, seeing as this year's Sweet Sixteen sports five universities in the national top-30 smart slots.

8. The Legacy Logic

Wisdom comes with age. Rely on that experience and choose the older coach in each matchup. Syracuse's head coach Tom Boeheim would undoubtedly appreciate that tactic.

9. The David and Goliath

Often referred to as the "all-underdog" approach, choose the team with the lower seed to win each matchup.

Classics like *Hoo-siers*, *Miracle*, *Glory Road* and *Remember the Titans* taught you to believe in the smaller, "weaker" and unexpected teams with the biggest hearts.

Though a strong emotional choice, this approach has a few drawbacks. Since 1985, only 16 percent of teams in the Final Four were originally seeded outside the top four.

Despite unappealing odds, you will be going all in, staying true to the believer in you. You are likely picking up some victories when double-digit seeds like Middle Tennessee, Steven F. Austin and Northern Iowa pull off crazy upsets, as they did this year. Maybe next year, follow your heart instead of your head!

Because these approaches lack rationale, hopefully you'll feel less self-loathing, anger or heartbreak when the Madness strikes again next year.

As you stare at the few remaining shreds of your bracket, consider this: The odds of a perfect bracket are one in 9.2 quintillion, and you would be more likely to win repeat Mega Millions lotteries. So don't despair!

It ain't over 'til it's over, and your bracket could make a historic comeback in this Sweet Sixteen.

So better luck next year, and remember, the odds will never be in your favor. But until then, embrace the Madness!

BLUE JAY SPORTS SCOREBOARD

M. Lacrosse	Baseball	M. Swimming	W. Swimming
March 19, 2016	March 16, 2016	March 18, 2016	March 18, 2016
@ Georgetown University	vs. Plymouth State University	NCAA Championships	NCAA Championships
W, 10-4	W, 10-1	4th (200pts)	5th (149pts)
Baseball	W. Lacrosse	W. Tennis	Baseball
March 18, 2016	March 23, 2016	March 19, 2016	March 17, 2016
vs. Skidmore College	vs. Stanford University	@ Williams College	vs. University of Wisconsin-Stout
L, 13-9	L, 10-9 (2OT)	L, 6-3	W, 16-13

Men's, Women's Track earn All-American honors

TRACK, FROM B12

raced as hard as we did the weekend before.

Smith then handed off to Senior Megan McDonald, racing the 400 meter leg. McDonald was able to close the gap between the small lead Williams College held. Junior Lindsay Cheu would be next to receive the baton. Cheu held on with the lead pack of five girls. Running the 800 meter leg, Cheu split 2:18 at the line. Last to run was junior Tess Meehan, running the mile leg to anchor the relay. With a tight pack in the lead of just under 10 teams, the race would come down to strategy.

In the last few laps, the St. Thomas University Tommies would eventually pull away from the rest of the field to win the event. Meehan held onto seventh place with a fierce kick to help push her over the line. Her finish earned Hopkins All-American honors. Less

than two seconds separated second- and seventh-place finishers.

After receiving her fourth All-American honor the previous night, Meehan was back Saturday to race the 3K along with her teammate sophomore Caroline Smith. The race, composed of the best D-III distance athletes in the nation, immediately went out fast. Both Meehan and Smith went through the first mile of the race around 5:05.

Entering the race, Smith was looking forward to the competition and the experience of running her

first open event at the NCAAs. Smith clocked a two-second personal best of 9:47.55 to place ninth, with Meehan just behind her in 10th. Both Jays just missed placing in the top eight and receiving All-American honors.

"My ninth place finish definitely makes me hungry to break into the top eight during outdoor," Smith said.

Smith, who never pre-

viously raced in the 3K before the 2016 indoor season, will focus on the 1500 meter in the spring. She will also compete in her first 5K on the track.

Looking ahead to the spring track season, the team is hopeful in defending their conference title. The Jays will kick off the season in College Park, Md. Saturday, March 26 at the Maryland Invitational.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Junior Tess Meehan prepares to sprint for gold for Hopkins' Women's Track.

Blue Jays defend home with another big win

By ZACH JAFFE
Staff Writer

The No. 8 Johns Hopkins men's lacrosse team continued their winning ways, rallying from four goals down to knock off the No. 3 Syracuse University Orange in overtime. This win was the third in a row for the Jays. Junior Wilkins Dismuke buried a rebound goal 1:51 into overtime to lift the Jays to a much-needed, thrilling comeback victory. Leading up to that goal, the game was filled with as many twists and turns as they come in college lacrosse.

The Orange immediately jumped out to a 4-0 lead, quieting the 1776 in attendance at Homewood Field for the time being and making it seem like an easy Orange victory was in the cards. Freshman Drew Supinski finally got the Jays on the board with 11:09 left in the second quarter, but junior Sergio Salcido of the Orange fired right back 43 seconds later.

A goal by Dismuke and then another Supinski goal brought the Jays within two until another Syracuse rebuttal.

Junior Cody Radziewicz took over the game, scoring three goals from the end of the second half to the middle of the third quarter, only to be interrupted by a junior Nick Mariano goal for the Orange.

Radziewicz's goals, all unassisted, brought the Jays within one until sophomore Patrick Fraser found the back of the net with a rocket on the man-up offense to tie the game with 23 seconds left in the third quarter. After a goal by junior Joe Gillis gave the Orange another lead, Fraser erased it once again with a laser into the top right corner of the goal.

With the game tied at 8-8, the Orange scored two unanswered goals and led the Jays with 2:22 left in the game. Junior midfielder John Crawley brought the Jays to within one and then senior attack Ryan Brown,

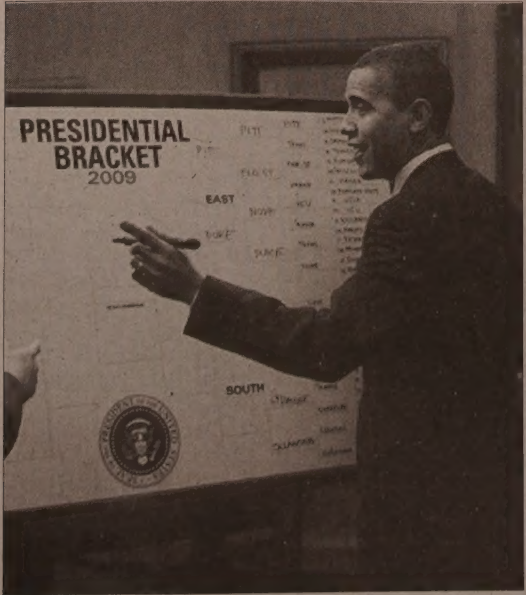
No. 4 pick in the 2016 Major League Lacrosse (MLL) draft, evened the game off with a pass to sophomore attack Shack Stanwick with 38 seconds remaining. This set up

Dismuke's game-winner.

The Jays look to continue their hot streak in a matchup against the unranked University of Virginia Cavaliers in Charlottesville, Va.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
The Jays used strong defense to win against Syracuse University.



PETE SOUZA/EXEC. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Even President Obama's bracket was busted in the round of 64.

SPORTS

Baseball returns to .500 on spring break



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Senior Raul Shah has stepped up and hugely helped the Jays.

BASEBALL, FROM B12
The Jays strung together four hits in a row by juniors Ryan Orgielewicz, Tommy Mee, Conor Reynolds and Brian Lin to send the game into extra innings. The Jays overcame another deficit in the tenth inning and, following a key walk by senior David Mampree, won the game after Mee beat out a throw to first base, scoring senior Raul Shah and giving Lazicky his second win of the season. Lazicky lauded the awakening of the Blue Jay bats and pointed to them as a key to the success that the team experienced in Florida. "Hitters began to absolutely mash the ball," the reliever said. "The hitters gave the pitching staff a lot of early leads in games, which allowed the pitchers to be able to pitch with a lead, which all players know is a huge advantage at any level." The Jays averaged nearly 10 runs over their last eight games, highlighted by a 16-run performance against the University of Wisconsin-Stout Blue Devils.

The early lead that Lazicky noted was essential, once again, as the 12-run lead that the Jays held for two-thirds of the game dissipated in the late innings, resulting in a fairly close affair. UW-Stout threatened in the last inning, scoring two runs with two runners on base before Lazicky slammed the door, striking out the two batters he faced. The trend of different relief pitchers stepping up during important situations is very encouraging to the Jays and will become especially necessary come postseason. "There have been some times that I struggled this year, and the hitters and other bullpen pitchers have picked me up," Lazicky said. "This is a great confidence booster going into Conference play." The Jays finished the break comfortably over the .500 mark, at 8-6-1, and are looking forward to the final few tune-up games before the Conference season commences.

Why Curry's lapse was unavoidable

Rachel Cook
Sportpinion

In the beginning of the National Basketball Association (NBA) season, it seemed as though there was going to be nothing that could stop the reigning MVP, Stephen Curry. As Curry and his Golden State Warriors took the season by storm, it seemed as though there was no opponent in their way to slow their momentum. With an insane winning percentage, the Warriors seemed to be well on their way to a 70-win season. What people didn't expect, although I sure did, is that Curry is not invincible. Curry has struggled immensely this past week, and it is not due to his teammates: Curry is known for his immaculate three-pointer which he so effortlessly drains ever game. However, Curry has shown quite a lot of frustration as he has struggled to drain his signature shot. What's the difference between this past week and previous weeks? Defense. Curry started his struggles this past week as the Warriors took on the San Antonio Spurs in

San Antonio. The Spurs have been perfect at home this season, and they were showing no signs of letting that record go. As the two best teams in the league right now started off the game, it was clear that the Spurs were not going to let Curry have it easy. Gregg Popovich had a visible plan going into the game: shut Curry down. Curry had a Spur defender on him at all times. No matter how many picks or switches their were, there was always a defender in his face, not allowing an easy shot. Curry started out the game 1-14 with no threes. It wasn't until the third quarter of the game that he finally put up a three. He showed obvious frustration as he hung his head on the court and was constantly arguing with the referees. Curry might be a phenomenal shooter, but he cracks under pressure. Soon enough, all teams will catch on to Pop's defensive tactics. Curry is good, but he is not good enough to withstand 48 minutes of in-your-face defense. I'm interested to see how the rest of the league adjusts to Curry's lapse in shooting. It's true, defense will always win the game.

By DEVIN TUCKER
Staff Writer

The Hopkins men's lacrosse team went out last Saturday for a high-profile matchup against the men's lacrosse team, the Syracuse University Orange. The game was reminiscent of the countless matchups between these two teams that have happened in the past, but it had a unique flair that made it very interesting to watch. Dave Pietramala, head coach of the Johns Hopkins men's lacrosse team for the past 15 years, could not attend the game as a result of a back infection that kept him in the hospital. The atmosphere and pre-game ritual may have felt different for the Hopkins men's lacrosse team, but they maintained their composure and built upon their ability to win big games. The game went back and forth for a while, with Syracuse gaining a four-goal lead at one point. Hopkins found it within themselves to maintain their composure, and through the di-

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK WILKINS DISMUKE — MEN'S LACROSSE

rection of their assistant coaches, they resisted the onslaught that Syracuse presented, and brought themselves back in order to send the game into overtime. The Blue Jays scored two goals in the final two minutes of the game to tie it up and took advantage of a wonderful opportunity. During Hopkins' first offensive possession of overtime, freshman Drew Supinski took a shot that bounced square off the goalie's chest, but he could not control the rebound. While it looked like a save had been made, Wilkins Dismuke, a junior attackman for the Blue Jays, picked the ball out of the air and buried it in the back of the net. For this tremendous feat that Dismuke accomplished, he has received *The News-Letter's* recognition as Athlete of the Week. After the game, he had quite a bit to say about the team, the winning goal and what success will mean down the line. *The News-Letter:* What has been key to

your success?

Wilkins Dismuke: I think that my success came from the preparation that we had throughout the entire week. Coach Benson does a really good job with our offense, and I was just in the right spot at the right time.

N-L: Describe the final play of the game in your own words.

W D : One of our freshmen, Drew Supinski, had been doing a great job dodging down the alley and getting his hands free throughout the entire game. He dodged from up top and got a shot off that hit the goalie in the chest. The ball came off of the goalie into the air, and I was right there to catch it and put it in the back of the net.

N-L: What does the team need to work on moving forward?

WD: We have won a few games in a row now, and I think it will be important for us to carry this momentum with us

for the rest of the year. If we can carry this momentum with us, I am confident that it will pay off in games to come.

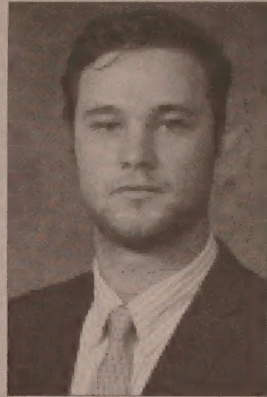
N-L: How would you say the team defines success?

WD: As a team we define success as accomplishing the goals that we have set as a team. At the beginning of the year we always get together and talk about the things that we want to achieve. Success comes for us when we accomplish those goals.

With Dismuke's help, Hopkins was able to secure another win in the epic series. The all-time Hopkins

Syracuse men's lacrosse matchup stands at 29-25-1, and 13 of the last 28 matchups were decided by one goal.

Hopkins still has a lot of work to do this season if they want to top last season's record of dominating in the Big 10. After big wins over Syracuse and the Princeton Tigers — they will return to action at Virginia this weekend.

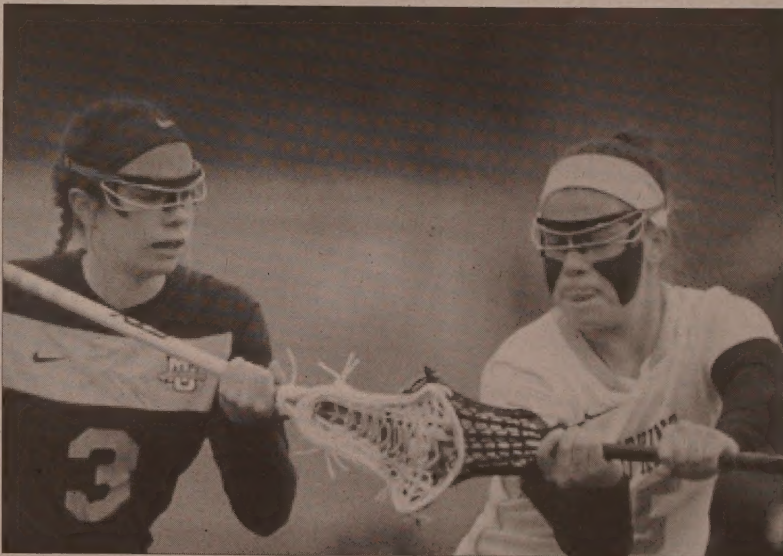


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Dismuke scored the OT goal versus Syracuse that sealed Hopkins' win.

Women's Lacrosse continues to dominate

By ANDREW JOHNSON
Staff Writer

Over the break, the Hopkins women's lacrosse team looked to continue their excellent play as they head into the middle portion of their season slate. This time of year can be a pivotal one, as a team is looking to round into form and be at its absolute peak as postseason championship tournaments approach. If a team can elevate its play and carry that momentum toward the home stretch of the campaign, it can build immeasurably beneficial momentum and can prove to be enough of a surge to even lead a team to the pinnacle of a championship. In one of their most dominant all-around performances of the season, the Lady Jays dominated the Georgetown Universities Hoyas 10-4 this past Saturday, pushing their winning streak to four in a row and improving their overall mark to 7-3 on the year. The mark of an outstanding team is being able to win the games that they should with consistency. While Georgetown lacrosse is a program with pedigree and while they were hosting the Lady Jays on their home field, the loss dropped the Hoyas to 2-6 on the season. The 19th-ranked Lady Jays put forth another dominant defensive effort in a season that has been filled with them so far. It marked the sixth time in 10 contests that Hopkins was able to hold their opponent to single digits in scoring. Leading



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The Lady Jays continue to battle for every possession including the beginning with the draw.

the charge was outstanding junior goalkeeper Caroline Federico, who has emerged as a stalwart force in goal for Hopkins in her first season as the unquestioned starter. She registered a career-high 14 saves in the contest, stopping and securing any and all shots that were fired at her from a variety of angles. Caroline comes from a long line of standout Hopkins lacrosse icons. Her father, Michael, was a three-time recipient of the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) Ensign C. Markland Kelly, Jr. Award as the nation's top goalie. He led Hopkins to three straight National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) titles during his time as a Blue Jay. Her uncle also played a critical role on both the 1979 and 1980 National Championship teams for the Jays.

Coming from a family of lacrosse royalty, Federico has certainly received a significant amount of guidance from individuals with championship pedigree. At the same time, it is important for her to carve out her own legacy on the field. Both men have certainly been vital to her success and development, but she is emerging as a dominant force in her own right in what could be a truly special season for the Jays. The Lady Jays have seven contests remaining on their schedule, including key bouts at home against the Towson University Tigers and on the road against the University of Maryland Terps. While Hopkins have had an excellent season and are carrying a recent hot streak, they would sit on the outside of the 16-team postseason field if the

tournament began today. With the current momentum the team is carrying, it will hopefully not be long until Hopkins surges into the top 10 and emerges as a championship contender. With a powerful offensive attack led by junior Haley Schweizer, senior Dene' DiMartino and sophomore Emily Kenul and with the outstanding goalkeeping of Federico, the Jays possess the elements that a team needs to make a serious tournament run. If you want to catch this exciting team in action, there will be numerous opportunities to cheer for the team as they make a push toward the NCAA tournament. On March 26, Hopkins will battle the Furman College Paladins at 1 p.m. on Homewood Field in a game which promises to be a pivotal contest.

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Senior Raul Shah went 5-for-5 in the baseball team's win in their last game in Florida.

CALENDAR

Friday
Baseball vs. Gwynedd Mercy, 3 p.m.
Saturday
Women's Lax vs. Furman, 1 p.m.
Sunday
Men's Lax @ Virginia, 1 p.m.

Baseball's Florida trip full of success

By MATT MIYAMOTO
For The News-Letter

As one of the most productive and busy weeks of the season, the Blue Jays' baseball trip to Florida provides a chance for the team to accumulate many in-game repetitions, develop team chemistry and springboard the team into the upcoming Centennial Conference season.

This year's trip was no different for the Jays, and it came at a decisive moment in the arc of Hopkins' season.

The Jays came into the trip in less than stellar shape — with an overall record of 1-4-1, albeit, with two of the losses coming in games facing the No. 1 nationally-ranked Cortland State in the previous week. Some teams might take solace in this fact,

but this Hopkins squad has their own national championship aspirations and talent and was disappointed by their middling start.

The first game of the week in Florida, however, was much of the same for the Jays since they lost 10-4 to Thiel College in uninspiring fashion. Thiel managed to accumulate five runs in both the fifth and the seventh innings against

the Blue Jays, due largely to errors and walks that yielded big innings.

After a first game that was hardly the way they wanted to start their trip, the Jays suited up the next morning for a 9 a.m. showdown against Bethel University. The Jays tightened up their defense, recording zero errors against a tough Bethel team, resulting in an 8-5 victory.

Senior relief pitcher Ross Lazicky weighed in on what this first Florida victory meant to the team. Rather than being an adjustment made overnight, he saw the change as being a long time coming.

"It was just everything the coaches have been preaching since the fall and what we've been practicing finally all clicking," Lazicky said.

"We just needed to find our stride, and after that first game in Florida we definitely found it."

The Jays proceeded to go on a winning tear, winning six of their next seven games, including games where they

were forced to grind out solid team wins, a mark of a successful team.

Against Amherst College, the Blue Jays found themselves in a three run hole with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning.

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE B11



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The Blue Jay baseball team kept their bats hot during the break in Florida.

Men's lax upsets Syracuse in overtime



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Led by junior midfielder Cody Radziewicz's first career hat trick, the men's lacrosse team executed a brilliant come-from-behind victory over the No. 3 Syracuse Orange on Saturday afternoon, extending their momentum after a commanding 17-7 win over Princeton last week. Radziewicz was honored with the Big 10 Player of Week award.

Athlete of the Week: Wilkins Dismuke

Junior attackman Wilkins Dismuke was the hero of Saturday's epic win for the men's lacrosse team over the Syracuse Orange, as he secured a rebound and fired it back into the net to clinch the upset victory.

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Why Steph Curry is Stoppable

The Golden State Warrior's Steph Curry has not been as unstoppable as everyone has projected within the last couple games. Riding a slump, Curry is showing signs of weakness. Check out why he might be stoppable.

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W. Tennis falls to No. 1 Williams College

By GAURAV VERMA
Staff Writer

The Hopkins women's tennis team picked up two wins this past weekend against The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) and Skidmore College, while falling to No. 1 Williams College. The results bring Hopkins to 4-2 on the season.

The Lady Jays fell behind early against TCNJ on Friday, falling behind 2-1 after doubles. The lone win came courtesy of sophomore Megumi Chen and freshman Kimberly Zou, who picked up an 8-3 win at second doubles.

Junior Ashnaa Rao opened up singles with a 6-3 7-6 (2) win at first, but TCNJ would then pick up the next two games, to pull within one point of victory in the match. The Jays would then change the tone of the matchup with three straight victories; sophomore Sunaina Vohra winning 6-4, 6-1 at fourth, sophomore Caroline Greydak coming out on top 6-2, 6-3 at fifth and Zou clinching the victory for Hopkins with a 7-5, 6-2 winner at sixth.

Against top-ranked Williams, the Jays fell behind 2-1 after doubles, with the win again coming from Chen and Zou who won 8-6 at second.

Hopkins dropped the first game of singles before Chen claimed a 6-3, 0-6, 7-5 win at second to cut the deficit to one. The Williamson Ephs, however, would not surrender the lead, winning the next three games to clinch a victory over the Jays. Greydak would get a consolation point for Hopkins to conclude the

match, winning 6-1, 7-6 (5) at sixth, to bring the final score to 6-3 in favor of Williams.

Hopkins bounced back from its loss against Williams with a resounding 8-1 win against No. 17 Skidmore on Sunday morning. Hopkins got off to a strong start in doubles, pulling ahead 2-1 after Chen and Zou pulled off an 8-2 win at second, and Greydak and senior Olivia Kasten won 8-5 at third.

The Jays would then sweep the singles portion of the match. Rao opened up with a 6-1, 7-6 (3) win at first. Chen emerged victorious at second with a 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 victory, with Vohra also winning a three-set battle at third, 6-3, 2-6, and 10-4 to secure the victory for the Jays. At fourth through six, Hopkins would not drop a single set with Greydak winning 6-3, 6-0 at fourth, Zou 7-6 (3), 6-2 at fifth and

freshman Chrissy Simon winning all 12 sets at sixth.

The No. 12 Jays will next face Haverford College on the road in their Conference opener this Saturday, March 26. The match will begin at noon. The men's team, whose Saturday match against Bates College in Baltimore was cancelled, will play Christopher Newport University at home this Saturday at 11 a.m.

Busted brackets and better betting ideas

Maggie Spitzer
Sportpinion

There's a reason they call it March Madness.

Before the first round of 64 had even finished, no perfect brackets remained.

No. 12 ranked Yale upset No. 5 Baylor. No. 11 Wichita State upset No. 6 Arizona. No. 12 Little Rock upset No. 5 Purdue.

Twenty percent of the brackets had No. 2 Michigan State going all the way, but No. 15 Middle Tennessee had other plans.

No. 14 Stephen F. Austin upset No. 3 West Virginia, another team many had in their Final Fours. No. 13 Hawaii upset No. 4 California.

For the first time in NCAA tournament history, a 13th, 14th and 15th seed all scored upsets on the same day.

That's the madness. The mad in madness though, comes from the combined

feeling of self-loathing, disbelief and despair as a bracket that was seemingly so masterfully sculpted, carefully designed and logically created falls apart in your hands.

These upsets upon upsets have left the masses wondering, would I do better relying on luck and pure chance than stats and numbers?

Year after year, the madness of March defies all statistics, calculations and rational thinking. So why waste your time with logic and reasoning? Why not beat the bracket at its own game and resort to the luck of the Irish and random chance?

If you were a poor predictor of this year's games or you are desperate for a long-awaited win in your pool, then maybe try your luck with one of these nine alternate tactics next year...

1. The Classic Coin Flip
Forget "Bracketology," and try putting the
SEE MADNESS, PAGE B10

Seven runners compete for D-III title

By EMILIE HOFFER
For The News-Letter

Seven athletes from the men's and women's track teams represented Hopkins the weekend of March 12 at the NCAA D-III Championships in Grinnell, Iowa. The teams did not disappoint. Both men competing brought home All-American honors along with the four women competing in the distance medley relay.

Senior Devin Conley had a huge personal best in the heptathlon. The competition, which consists of seven different events, took place over the course of the weekend. Of the seven events, Conley had three new personal records. Finishing in eighth, seven spots ahead of his seed, Conley received All-American honors for the first time in his career. Conley's performance marked a new Centennial Conference record of 4.812 points.

Also representing the men was junior Andrew Barnett competing in the pole vault. Barnett placed second in the event for the second consecutive year. Both instances Barnett was bested by sophomore Luke Winder, a sophomore from North Central College. Barnett cleared 5.25m for the second time in his career (the first time being the previous weekend), a Hopkins and Centennial Conference record.

The Lady Jays had an

equally successful showing at NCAAs, receiving All-American in the distance medley relay. The event kicked off on Friday, where Hopkins faced an extremely competitive field. The relay was led by sophomore Caroline Smith running the 1200m leg.

"Our goal was to race exactly like we did at Tufts [University], staying confident and racing hard," Smith said. "We hoped for All-American and we knew that would come if we

SEE TRACK, PAGE B10



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Several runners earned All-American honors at the NCAA championship.